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Discovering My Artistic Voice Through The Stage Adaptation Of Winners Don't Quit

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DISCOVERING MY ARTISTIC VOICE THROUGH THE STAGE ADAPTATION OF
WINNERS DON'T QUIT

by

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A thesis submitted in partial fulfillment of the requirements
for the degree of Master of Fine Arts
in the Department of Theatre
in the College of Arts and Humanities
at the University of Central Florida
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2007

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ABSTRACT

My mother would often tell me there is no excuse for any man or woman who has ability to be in lack, as well as to never wait for a hand out when you can work for everything you need. I can honestly say I never once saw my mother or father beg from anyone. Not to say they never borrowed, I always knew them both as hard workers. Everything the family needed and wanted they worked for it. My mother would often time clean houses, work different odd jobs, and would even vend her personal things occasionally at a local flea market when times were a little tight. My point...she never gave up due to the occasional given circumstance of financial lack. She created an opportunity when there wasn't one so that the family would continue to operate with out stop. By watching her in memory and recalling those different accounts, I too must do the same.

Currently, I am on my own. I have no children, no spouse thus no drama, but I do have bills and no steady income...okay so maybe I do have a little drama. So what am I going to do? I ask while reminding myself...*Evelyn you are about to attain your Masters degree in the area you love...FINE ARTS, and what are you going to do? How are you going to make all of those life long dreams happen for yourself? How are you going to attain those goals?* These questions have occurred to me without stop, which are always followed by realistic answers, which connects to a strong belief within myself...I can and will make it happen. How? Plan, work hard, and not give up until it happens!

You, the reader, will learn how I'm embarking on my next level as a performing artist/writer, and how I have planned on making a portion of my dreams come true. I have partnered with Dr. Pamela McCauley-Bell, author of *Winners Don't Quit...Today They Call Me Doctor*, which is a personal account of her life. This empowering piece of literature is originally

in book form, and currently, been adapted by myself into a stage production with the vision of it heading for the big screen. Oh yes! I always wanted to do touring shows, and films. Even if no one cast me I'll have shows to produce as well as perform. I will continue to write productions, which will create more opportunities not just for myself, but for others. I strongly believe in God giving me favor, and the desires of my heart as long as it magnifies HIM.

God, in my opinion, is magnified when we use our gifts He has given us for good. And not just for the good of ourselves, but for the good of others. This truth echoes the artistic voice of my heart that I have towards my family, friends, and community. I care so much not to just look good, but to do a good that will have a lasting impact on all I come in contact with. It's great to entertain someone, but it is so phenomenal to educate. And that's what I'm doing with my artistic voice...combining the two...entertainment as well as education. As I discover new teachings, wisdoms, and positive habits from *WDQ* I'm not only educating myself, but others as I share the life story of Dr. Bell through an entertaining stage adaptation.

Adapting the book, *Winners Don't Quit*, into a stage production is to better lives including my own. The moral of her story, your social upbringing does not determine your future...you do. This type of theatre will be used as a tool to create social change, such as a simple recharging of deferred dreams, which will allow audience members to self evaluate and self empower themselves towards a better life.

This thesis will reveal the process I went through while adapting and staging an excerpt of *Winners Don't Quit*.

To my late mother, Mary Tyler.

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

To those that have given me this phenomenal style of literature I claimed as a piece to my personal puzzle: Christ for being the True Blueprint, and Dr. Pamela McCauley-Bell for personally exposing herself to the world.

To my thesis committee, Julia Listengarten, Ph.D. (Chair), Pamela McCauley-Bell, Ph.D. (Co-Chair), and Tan Huaixiang I greatly appreciate your strength in character. Julia, I thank you for never giving up on me, and your consistent willingness to help. Dr. Bell, WOW! I'm honored...just honored to have gotten to know pieces of you. Thanks for everything! Tan, you have a true talent that I love! I appreciate working with you equally as much as learning from you.

Last, but never least, I give my love in letters to daddy, Bernie, Lee, Nita (my siblings), countless family members, Antioch MBC members, and friends for their continual support. Thank you and God forever bless you! Much love!!!

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LIST OF ACRONYMS

DSL	Down Stage Left
HBCU	Historically Black Colleges & Univ
LOL	Laugh Out Loud
SL	Stage Left
SR	Stage Right
TSI	Tech Solutions, Inc.
TTP	Total Theatre Project
WDQ	Winners Don't Quit
YAF	Young Adult Fellowship

CHAPTER ONE: INTRODUCTION

Theatre for social change is just what it states...changing a society through the use of theatre. And in this case, great theatre. While providing the number one answer to success *Winners Don't Quit* highlights the following social issues people face on a daily basis: teenage pregnancy, physical and verbal abuse within relationships, single parenthood, women in competitive work places/fields, and women in technology. This answer simply states, DON'T QUIT. Do what you have to do to survive, as long as you don't give up you'll make it. Through the undisclosed journey of a young woman the play gives a guide of how to overcome and conquer the above issues while maintaining and increasing self value and worth. The reader will not only find throughout the pages of *WDQ* the story of a young woman, but he/she will see her story or a family member story embedded with in Dr. Bell's.

As I think about it, *WDQ* is very similar to an African folktale, which speaks about morals, values, and the outcome of various situations when good choices are made, and when bad choices are made. Folktales are also a powerful tool to use while imparting social change, because of the common issues that all ethnic groups face. See Appendix B, which highlights the process of me teaching a group of students on how to adapt a play from an African-American folktale, and the success that followed.

Winners Don't Quit Picked Me

"You know Les, sometimes we don't pick the books we read, they pick us," said Sam, a key character within *The Hurricane*, starring Denzel Washington. *The Hurricane* is an exceptional movie detailing the life of Ruben "Hurricane" Carter. This movie highlights and tells of Carter's tormenting past, which led from victorious boxing days to being falsely accused for murder and finally receiving a life sentence in prison. It was there that Carter mustered up an

unfailing hope that would later manifest itself within writings he would soon house within a book titled *The Sixteenth Round*. This book gives an account of his life and then status, as a prison inmate. Although Carter was a locked up inmate, this book acted as a freeman's voice, which would later become his breakthrough/deliverance in disguise. Not only that, it would also become the deliverance of another.

As mentioned, "You know Les, sometimes we don't pick the books we read they pick us." This is a very important quote, because it tells of a unique parallel combining myself, and teenager Les, who is also known as Lesra Martin. Lesra Martin miraculously finds *The Sixteenth Round* at a used book sale, which he bought for twenty-five cents. Now, the movie doesn't illustrate Lesra rummaging through piles of books, but that he stood looking at a bin of books, which had *The Sixteenth Round* resting at the top. The book caught his attention and led him to pick it up. In exchange for a quarter, he took the book home, and without delay began to read it. The reading began to impact him from page to page, and Lesra was motivated in more ways than one. Reading through those pages revealed a man to Lesra he had never read or heard of before. Carter to Lesra was more than a hero; he was a powerful example. Despite how severe the obstacle was to Carter he still knew how to set goals, and achieve them in the midst of adversity. So this catapulted Lesra to not only see the hope within himself; but he began to see the hope that was snatched away from Ruben "The Hurricane" Carter, who was wrongly convicted. The understanding of equality rose in Lesra, and he began to crave Carter's justice as if it was his. Lesra's first step was writing Carter to let him know that he'd read his book, and that it left a resounding impact upon him. Carter replied, and oh boy was Lesra touched! He then began to write back, but soon wanted more. Lesra wanted to now see Carter, and was immediately welcomed to visit the prison unit. And the story continues with Carter finally being released

from prison, and Lesra pursuing his education to practice law. Now what does any of this have to do with me, and *Winners Don't Quit*?

Like I said, the book quote is a unique parallel between Lesra and myself. After finding some class material I prepared to leave the third floor of the university library one August evening during the fall of 2005. I was trying my best to get an early start within a Shakespeare acting class. The professor assigned a number of movies he listed for us to view, and so I wanted to check the chosen four out of the library before anyone else got to them. Well, I remember walking down the center aisle with videotapes, passing the first media shelf, and there it was...*Winners Don't Quit...Today They Call Me Doctor* by Dr. Pamela McCauley-Bell. For some reason or another it was sticking half the way out, and it got my attention as I walked pass. So I quickly and immediately turned around. I don't know if I would have responded the same way if it were a white woman on the cover; I don't know. It was just something about this beautiful black woman on the cover of a book titling, *Winners Don't Quit...Today They Call Me Doctor!* So I picked it up while not wanting to put it back. I was somehow drawn to her story that I hadn't read yet. So, that night, I checked Dr. Bell's entire kit out of the library: a book, a videocassette, and a little workbook. As soon as I got home I popped in the video, watched it, and was amazed at Dr. Bell's story. I immediately learned she was one who'd faced many trials and has overcome them all. She became a hero to me, and so I craved to read *WDQ*. Two days later I began reading the book, and couldn't put it down. I almost missed class one afternoon because of it. As I read her story, visions began to well inside of me about taking her story to another level. And I knew what I was feeling was real, of God, and would happen. I'm talking from the page to the stage. Yes, adapting the story into a stage production. And I absolutely had no clue on who this woman was or where she was located. I just knew I had to meet her,

because we would one-day work together on this project. During the end of that semester I ordered two copies of her book in addition to the entire kit. I paid a little over eighty dollars for the copies, plus tax. Months would pass until I would actually take the first step to begin the entire writing process of writing the *WDQ* stage adaptation.

A year later at the start of fall 2006, I wrote and sent Dr. Bell an email. What is so ironic, Dr. Bell was right under my nose, and I didn't even know it. She works at the school I'm attending. She replied, and just like Lesra, I was so excited! In the email I introduced myself, and told Dr. Bell what I'd planned to do. While asking for her permission Dr. Bell immediately gave me her blessings to begin work. We emailed back and forward a few times before I asked to meet with her.

Meeting Dr. Bell for the first time was more than an honor...it was a blessing in disguise. What sticks out about that first meeting was her laugh...it was extremely loud. It reminded me of my laughing out bursts. The day my mother assisted in my moving to Orlando she begged while in the hotel room for me to get rid of it, but how can one do such a thing? So, hearing her laugh brought a little comfort to know if we didn't have anything else in common we had that country laugh. But anyway, I was impressed with myself on that day. I was a civilized fan who behaved very well. I only asked for her autograph after the meeting was over. She kindly signed my book, and made it personal by stating, "To Evelyn you are the epitome of a winner!" It was within that meeting where I expressed to Dr. Bell my vision of the next level for *WDQ*, and she was honored.

So, exactly what is *WDQ* about?

CHAPTER TWO: LITERATURE OF REVIEW

The book, *Winners Don't Quit...Today They Call Me Doctor*, is a hopeful read that lends itself as a personal motivator to the reader. Within its pages the reader will explore a detailed account of a pregnant teenager who is faced with the haunting question of, "How will I, with a baby, make it?" This account reveals the actual process of how a pregnant fifteen year old went from giving birth to a daughter while receiving welfare to become one of the most influential black women within the world of engineering. Her name? Dr. Pamela McCauley Bell.

The reason why I note this book is a hopeful read is because of its universal language, issues, and outcomes. Those around me that came in contact with the book saw themselves throughout Dr. Bell's story. Also the interviews I conducted revealed an astonishing truth that several thousands of young women across this nation were greatly impacted by her story. They could relate to a woman who was once in the pit and now the palace or when her socio-economic class was low to middle and now at a humbling high. They were able to mentally remove Dr. Bell out of her own story to see themselves in diverse pits with the drive to make it to their own personal palaces. I believe Dr. Bell's initial approach with the writing of her story derived from a spiritually humbling state, which affirmed, *bare all with no shame while showing and telling your sisters and brothers they will be okay while going through the fire. Reassure them they're not the only ones going through some type of test, but to let them know you have been through many tests and came out victorious...all because you believed in Me, which allowed you to believe in yourself, and not quit.* As Dr. Bell presents a flashback of her past, we see her in varied positions that most people today are deeply ashamed of.

The story begins with a fifteen year old named Pamela McCauley. Pam just relocated with her family back to Oklahoma from Virginia, and was extremely excited about high school,

cheerleading, and Eddie STOKES...Hershey Chocolate as she nicknamed him. Eddie to her was a lot of things, some of them being boyfriend, personal trophy, and sex partner. Pam wasn't one to brag about the latter, but she was very proud to state that Eddie was her man! Pam found it an honor when with him or even asked about him when he wasn't in her presence. And it would soon come time when she would no longer be in his, because the McCauley's were relocating to Oklahoma.

Weeks into being in Oklahoma, Pamela wasn't feeling so well and was taken to a doctor's office by her mother. It was there the fifteen year old learn she was a few weeks pregnant, which marks the first test: teenage pregnancy. Pam, of course, was shocked as well as ashamed. So, she prayed and asked God to make it all go away, but it didn't happen. Later, Pam was confronted with the issue of abortion, immediately she wanted to have one, and the opportunity came. While in the abortion clinic she was first examined to see if the act could be fulfilled, but it couldn't...the reason? Pam was too far along in her pregnancy for the doctors to carry on with the procedures. So now her second request of getting rid of her baby was now denied. Though these facts are a little harsh, the heart of Pamela wasn't. She was a frightened teenager whose mistakes suddenly caught up, and just wanted a quick fix to continue with high school, cheerleading, and possibly Eddie. Nevertheless, to God be all the glory for allowing things not to turn out as she had hoped. Pamela was now forced to continue out the remaining nine months, which she soon embraced as everything around her began to change.

Instead of going to the high school of her choice, Pamela went to an alternative high school for girls called Emerson. While at Emerson the initial image of her future and what she wanted to become were diminishing. Her desires of becoming a doctor had become a fairy tale, and the infamous common belief and state of a teenage mother was becoming a label she was

slowly accepting. This label stated; she would be on welfare for the rest of her life, eventually have more babies, babies that would be nothing, because their mama was nothing. But during one day after class a teacher of hers name Mrs. Bennett asked, “Pamela what do want to become when you grow up?” Pamela responds, “Well I use to want to be a doctor.” “Oh, you can still be a doctor Pam!” Mrs. Bennett encouragingly stated. And from that moment every obstacle that came Pamela McCauley’s way were slowly, but surely defeated with the will to succeed.

In May of 1979 Pam gave birth to Annette Cherice Stokes, and she made a vow to be the best mother and provider for her baby. Eddie Stokes, Annette's father was aware of his newborn, but his family was a much greater support to their grandchild than he was. This reality of a missing father didn’t phase Pam nor her duty as a mother to Annette, she just had to step up her role to become both mother and acting father: test number two, being a mother and a father. Now that Pam’s duties were doubled; she still had great support from her parents and was able to get a job making t-shirts while they cared for baby Annette, which would soon come to an end. Pam’s mother applaud her effort of hard work, but she was tired and a true realist. Mrs. McCauley stated the fact that a lot of babysitting fell on her and Mr. McCauley, and that Pam’s education was more important than a t-shirt shop. So, she encouraged Pam to apply for government aid while in school: test number three, if you need help let go of your pride. Pam of course didn’t want to, but her mother, the wise and aggressive type, wasn’t taking no for an answer. The next day Pam applied for aid, which was a great help in a number of ways while in school, but she never was comfortable or complacent while receiving it, like some people are.

When Pam graduated from Emerson, she entered into a local community college where she received her Associates degree: test number four, complete the next level of your education with a baby. Before entering this school, Pam had a plan to get her Bachelors degree from the

University of Oklahoma, but was unable to because of finances. Because Pam was a planner she moved to plan B, which was, enter the community college, graduate, and then enroll at the university for bachelors degree.

Pam was doing well in school, and decided to take a job at a shoe store on the side. While at work one day Pam met a man who she quickly became acquainted with. It was easy to do so since Eddie was now out of the picture. The person was Joshua Smith, and to Pam he was a breath of fresh air. Joshua was much older than she was, and he appeared to be very mature, and established. Her mother of course didn't like him, like most mothers; that "mother's intuition" was kicking. One afternoon during dinner Pam got into a heated argument with her mother over Joshua. Pam began to back talk Mrs. Lafrance who quickly back slapped her, knocking her to the ground. When Pam rose she announced she had enough, and was moving out. Forgetting her child, Pam packed her things and headed for the door, her mother shouted, "Come get your baby!" Pam turned around, got Annette, and then left for Joshua's. He, of course, welcomed them and their belongings with open arms.

Pam and Annette stayed some days and nights at Joshua's, but she never once liked the idea of living with a man she wasn't married to. Morally it wasn't right in the sight of God; Pam hated hurting her parents; and lastly she wanted to set the right example for Annette. Pamela told Josh how she felt and that the entire situation would be right if they were married. Joshua reassured her that they weren't at fault for what they were doing, because God knew their hearts. But those words wouldn't keep Pamela long enough to live that way. One day Pam packed up all of her things and returned to the McCauley residence. When Joshua came home and found that she and Annette were gone he pleaded for them to return while making a promise to marry her. The promise of marriage was never broken, but trust was.

On the very day that Pam was to marry Joshua Smith, everything was set in place and on time...except for the groom. The groom showed up an hour or two late wearing shades to camouflage his drunkenness. As Dr. Bell noted "I should have reconsidered and questioned myself for wanting to marry Josh," but instead she questioned him and he said, "I'm here ain't I!" Sad to say, the two married that day, and drove away into sunset? No...at this point, the sun was gone, and it was dark. At the start of their honeymoon Pam asks, "Where are we going?" "We are going to look at a new BMW that I want to buy." Josh responds. "I don't think that would be a good idea." Pam Smith adds. WHAM! "You are my wife and you will do what I say!" Josh demandingly stated: test number five, you have just been back slapped/physically abuse on your wedding day. What are you going to do? To embarrass to say anything, Pam refused to argue as she quietly whispered inside herself, "welcome to your new life Mrs. Pamela McCauley-Smith!"

Luckily this new life came to an end, because like most abusive relationships things didn't get better, they got worse. Not only was Joshua violently abusive, he was a jealous dream killer who didn't want Pam to continue on with her education. Josh wanted Pam to get a job so that she could help foot the bills, which were the unnecessary ones he was creating. And he wanted this as soon as Pam graduated with her associates degree. This infuriated Pam, which gave her the strength to leave Josh one day while he was at work. Pam headed home with Annette, called her mother who was at work, and told what was going on within the marriage. Mrs. McCauley assured Pam that she and Annette were always welcomed home. Now, this really amazed me; Pamela decided to leave Josh not because he was abusing her, but because he was beginning to hold her back from a higher education...either way she left, which was great, because if she had not I probably would have done my thesis on another subject...let's continue.

After graduating from the community college, which Josh didn't attend, Pam's plan was to enroll at the University of Oklahoma. Remember, this was her original plan A. While at the university, Pam swiftly changed career goals. Instead of becoming a doctor she now wanted to be an engineer. Knowing this choice would launch Pam into a world of male chauvinists and male domination she boldly took the challenge and began to buckle up for the ride: test number six, complete your education with a baby, and with powerful men literally in your face saying you're not going to make it. Despite all that was said, Pamela quickly learned that she was in control of her destiny. She couldn't stop what was said about her and to her, but she could control what she did with those remarks.

Pamela developed a technique of writing down all her goals on a piece of paper, which she posted on her refrigerator. Pam retreated to this list every time someone announced what she could not and would not do. The top of the list stated "Get Bachelors degree!" In which she did. The testing story continues to unfold and reveal Pamela not only receiving her bachelors degree, but gaining a \$90,000 Creativity Fellowship from the National Science Foundation to begin graduate studies. In the end, Pamela stayed on at the University of Oklahoma to attain not only a Bachelors, but a Masters, and Doctorate degree within the field of Engineering. And as Dr. Bell began to relive her life journey through motivational speeches, she swiftly realized that speeches were not enough. So she encourage herself to write a book. This occurred after Dr. Bell watched a young woman from Emerson Alternative walk away from one of her workshops silently craving more.

The following is a copy of the press release on *Winners Don't Quit* issued by Infinite Possibilities, and courtesy of Tech Solutions.

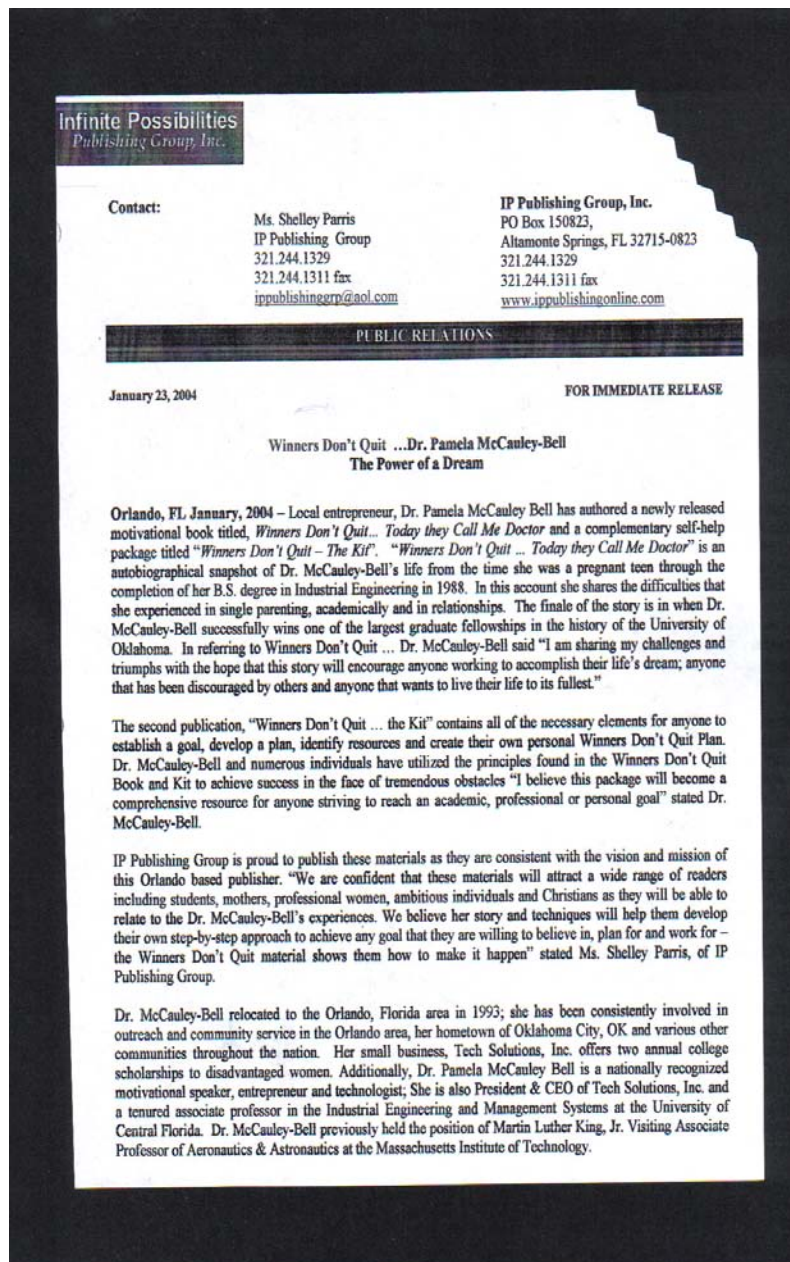


Figure 1 Press Release

CHAPTER THREE: WHO IS DR. PAMELA McCAULEY-BELL

Well... who isn't she? I ask not in a sarcastic way, but really in an inquiring way. Just by watching, listening, and being within her company I grew to know Dr. Bell as a productive busy body with great balance. For Dr. Pamela McCauley-Bell is the respected holder of a number of titles. To sum it up, I created an acronym of her that I believe fits well. P.A.M.E.L.A: P-arent, A-ssociate Professor, M-otivational Speaker, E-ntrepreneur, L-over of Jesus Christ, A-uthor. Allow me to elaborate.

Putting parenthood in the proper perspective reveals that there are a number of ways to become a parent: one may adopt a child, one may give birth to a baby or one may receive custody of a minor. In either case the individual is now a parent. At the age of fifteen, Pamela McCauley didn't expect parenthood to be knocking at her door so soon, but by grace she was able to answer the knock while welcoming a universal responsibility, parenthood. Within the very beginning stages as a mother Pamela stated that she would give the best life to her daughter Annette. And although it was a struggle Pamela kept her promise until she began to see in reality the things she once spoke of. As we all have seen within life, parenting comes in all types of forms; some being good, some being bad, and some being down right awful. But this is a case where no social worker or case worker had to step in, because of a domestic issue within the home. With the help of her parents, family, and friends Pamela McCauley-Bell reared a respectful and beautiful young woman named Annette Stokes-Hemphill who's making a great impact within her mother's company, TSI.

Actually, when I think back on my educational career the professors and the teachers are the first thing to come to mind. Why? Because every teacher I had played a valuable role in my learning each subject that he/she taught. When the teacher was engaging the more engaged I was

as her student. With a unique and engaging personality Dr. Bell is labeled as a rewarding professor. Now, I have never set foot in any of her classes, but word on the street says *she's off the chain and is no joke!* In other words...*Dr. Bell is awesome at what she does!* Currently, Dr. Bell is a tenured Associate Professor at the University of Central Florida. While at UCF she has taught and teaches the following courses: ergonomics, safety, expert systems, statistics, fuzzy set theory, and introduction to engineering.

Millions of motivational speakers probably exist, but what matters the most is the one good for the soul. And I say this because some speakers stand on a faulty foundation with screwed up morals or no morals at all. But when you find the right motivational speaker he/she will not only make you feel good within that very moment, but you'll feel empowered the next day after the next day after the next day after the next...all because this type of speaker has planted seeds that are destined to grow and produce a great harvest. When I first saw and heard Dr. Bell it was on VHS. And although the message she'd delivered then was so many years old, the seeds were still new and vibrant, which took root inside of me. So yes...the M in Pamela will forever stand in my book and thesis as Motivational Speaker.

Engaging in owning a business let alone starting one is a courageous independent move that speaks a lot of volume especially when it's making a great impact within the nation...yes the nation! Dr. Bell is the President and CEO of Tech Solutions, Inc., which was founded in nineteen ninety-nine. "TSI focuses on the development of innovative solutions to engineering and technical problems by fulfilling operational needs in government, business, and management. Long-range and contingency planning, homeland security, and policy issues are but a few areas in which TSI has contributed significantly to client profitability." (TSI Comprehensive Package pg.1) As an entrepreneur within and outside of the Orlando area Dr.

Bell has set a humbling high standard for others to follow.

Let some disagree, but my belief states, "without Christ you can do nothing." (St. John 15) I fearfully believe this word, and I make sure to take Christ wherever I go...now I'm not claiming to be a perfect saint or anything, but I will give honor and respect when it is due, and with Christ it is always due. One of the reasons why Dr. Bell is so successful is because of her faithful love for Jesus Christ. She has no problem while in public acknowledging, thanking, and loving Christ for all that He has done. Just like we must obey the law of the land to prevent getting speeding tickets, we also must obey God's word so that He can fulfill His promises within our lives...loving Him is one of the greatest commands. And I can clearly see the promises of God overflowing within Dr. Bell's life, all because of her LOVE for Christ.

Although I have no idea on where to even begin when trying to write a book I do believe that if it's filled with purpose the start wouldn't be too difficult. Dr. Bell has had many starts at authoring books, journals, articles, and news related publications. As mentioned previously she is the respected holder of a number of titles with each making impacts within the business field and social community.

So this is my literal defining moment of Dr. Bell, which is an important part of this research. Before I could dissect *Winners Don't Quit* I needed to first understand the woman who wrote it, and I have gained a lot of insight on Dr. Bell. This knowledge encourages me to continue in Excellency just as Dr. Bell has done within all of her work.

CHAPTER FOUR: WINNERS DON'T QUIT STAGE ADAPTATION

The stage adaptation of *WDQ...Today They Call Me Doctor* recaptures those moments of the life and times of Dr. Pamela McCauley-Bell as they are re-enacted, giving viewers the extra push that's needed to continue on the road of achieving all set goals, and even develop some new ones. The story has a universal message for people of every background and gender. It has no set audience it caters to, which makes the message highly receivable for all. The overall purpose is to not applaud Dr. Bell on her accomplishments, but to have every member of the audience learn from this story and to then evaluate and see themselves as an over comer. Knowing that whatever they desire to possess, it's through persistence and hard work that they will ultimately accomplish all goals despite the nay Sayers.

A lot of great women and men of diverse backgrounds have gone before this nation paving the way to great opportunities. We, too, have the responsibility of learning from them, paving new paths, and leaving a mark for others to follow. And this is what I'm doing: paving a new path and leaving a mark not just for myself, but for others who share the same interest, and for those new theatre patrons who will make *Winners Don't Quit* their first stage production they've ever seen. Talking about firsts, this is actually my first time writing a professional stage adaptation. It is a lot of work, but it's worth the sweat.

This process as mentioned is a great journey that calls for a lot, which means this job can not be half done. And I wouldn't want it to be half done, because my name is attached. Therefore, expect like I'm expecting for this project to be great! I have planned immensely, and throughout this planning I have made sure to acknowledge Christ so I would not only accomplish all recorded goals, but that I'd fulfill and produce them in Excellency.

In order for me to get started with the writing of *WDQ* there first had to be a desire...a

love for the original work that was read. And I can truly say I have a great love for this book, which has kept my interest. I would suggest the next time I write another stage adaptation to be free from distractions such as three jobs, because this slows down the process. Second, there needed to be a clear vision of this work, not just within my mind, but within my heart, soul, and spirit...they were all at one and in peace with wanting to do this. Third, the belief within myself needed to be present. Lastly, I needed my Maker to guide me through it all, because without Him I am nothing and can do nothing. With all this in place I was ready to begin writing.

Planning is key here. I needed to know where to start, and the best place was to read the entire book again. As I read, I begin to take notes on everything. Ideas and visions of all types flooded my mind as I went back through the book. But I needed a steady technique that I could use throughout this journey, so I chose to use the idea of writing down all the characters that were mentioned within the book just to see exactly what I was working with. Please note that all characters do not appear throughout the play, but the majority of them are mentioned in dialogue, which still makes them characters. For example, the character name Mrs. Bennett appears within the script, and has action with the other characters vs. the character name Courtney who is mentioned through dialogue, but has no action with the other characters; therefore, she is only mentioned and not seen. The following is a list of characters: *Mrs. Bennett, 3-4 Female Students, Teacher, Dr. Pamela McCauley-Bell/Narrator, Teenage Pam, Lawanda, Angel, Mrs. LaFrance, Doctor, Nurse, Maurice, Marcella, Eddie, Mr. Law, Mrs. Webb, Mrs. Bennett, Cynthia, Felicia, Sabrina, Mr. McCauley, Mrs. Lemonia, Annie, Marisha, Lewis, Annette, Caseworker, Dr. Ryder, Joshua Smith, Reverend Parker, Charles, Charles Alexander, Aunt Camille, Tara, Uncle Lee, Patrice, Courtney, Latisha, Alan, Mrs. J. Littell, Uncle Dave, David Carr Jr., Dave Scott, Calculus, Professor, Director of Engineering, Karla Green, Counselor, Dr.*

Norman, Vincent Peale, Dr. Ligouris, John, Marcie Turner, Joe Marshall, Howard G. Adams,

Bob Lewis, Sandy, Evelyn, Les Smith, Leroy Bassett, Clerk, 911 Dispatcher, Fireman, Patty

Jacobs, Ms. Katheringe Mann, Mrs. Mann Supervisor, Dr. Foote, Wayne, Dr. Badiru, Dr.

Purswell, & Secretary. Another technique I used was going back within each chapter and writing

down the different events that took place, and from this state, I mixed and matched the events to

create scenarios. Below is a portion of a drafted list of the beginning events from chapter one.

Typed lists follow the original copies.

- CONVERSATION w/ GAD
BECOMING: CHARACTER LINE UP
EODIE BIRNEY: 23
- CHAPTER 1
- DOCTOR'S OFFICE VISIT
 - FINDS OUT SHE IS PREGNANT & INFORMS MAM ^{DOCTOR (G)}
 - REMINISCENT ABOUT BORN-YOUNG w/ MAM
 - LEFT THE DOCTOR'S OFFICE, DRIVING HOME, PAM IN BACK SEAT
 - MAM TELLS LAWYER THAT PAM IS PREGNANT
 - PAM GOES TO ROOM & CRIES
 - FLASHBACK TO EODIE
 - ANOTHER DOCTOR VISIT (FAMILY DOCTOR) ... SAME RESULTS ... ALTERNATIVE
 - CONVERSATION / ARGUMENT TO GAD IN BED
 - MAM CALLED ANNE AND TOLD HER PAM WAS PREGNANT
 - PAM SPoke w/ EODIE ... CLINIC TO REMAIN ... EODIE'S ABSENT STAFF
 - MAM CTD OVER INSTRUCTIONS w/ PAM CONCERNING VISITATION
 - PAM IS CONFOUNDED THE NOT WORKING BY MAM BEFORE
 - CHANCE TO CLINIC
 - AT THE CLINIC ... CONSULTATION w/ NURSE & OTHERS ... THERE AFTER ...
 - DOCTOR NEEDS TO CHECK YOU ... NOT THIS ONE WORKS ...
 - DENVER CONCEPT
 - NO DENVER ... YES BABY ... COULD HAVE ... CITY & MAM'S
 - PRESENT IN THE MAM'S ... HOME
 - AUNT CAMILLE KNOWS PAM ... PAM TRIES TO PERSUADE MAM THAT IT'S NOT ABOUT NOT TO HAVE THE BABY
 - MAM ENCOURAGES PAM, AS WELL AS TELL HER ABOUT
 - EMERSON ALTERNATIVE SUGGESTION
 - FROM PUTNAM CITY TO EMERSON ALTERNATIVE SUGGESTION
 - YOU CAN GO TO AUNT CAMILLE'S HOUSE AFTER SCHOOL, THE 130
 - W/ W/ W/ W/ OFF THERE, IT'S GOING TO WORK ON PAM

Figure 2: Play Writing Notes

Chapter 1

Doctor's office visit.

Finds out she is pregnant & Doctor informs mom.

Reminiscence about being young with Maurice.

Left the Doctor's office...driving home...Pam on back seat.

Mama tells Lawanna that Pam is pregnant.

Pam goes to room and closes door...cries.

Flashback to Eddie.

Another doctor's visit (family doctor)...same results...alternative.

Conversation/apology to God in bed.

Mom calls Annie and tells her Pam is pregnant.

Pam spoke with Eddie...clinic tomorrow...Eddie's parent pay half.

Mom go over instructions with Pam concerning abortion.

Pam is confronted and questioned the next morning by mom before going to clinic.

At the clinic...consultation with nurse and other girls...take a trip.

Doctor needs to check you..."nope this one won't work"...Denver, Colorado.

No Denver...yes baby...going home....cry and whining...falling in the parking lot...home.

Aunt Camille knows now...Pam tries to persuade mom that it's not a good idea to have the baby.

Mom encourages Pam, as well as tell her about Emerson Alternative School.

From Putnam City to Emerson Alternative School.

You can go to Aunt Camille's house after school, the bus will drop you off there, it's gonna work out Pam.

Eddie I'm too far along in my pregnancy...I guess I have to be a mom now.

- EDDIE REASSURES PAM THAT ALL WILL BE WELL... "WE COULD EVEN GET MARRIED."
- PAM CALLS ANGEL AND TELLS HER.
- WENDY ENTERS THE LIVING ROOM... YOU SHOULD NOT HAVE BEEN HERE.
- MARCELLO COMES TO THE RESCUE.
- WENDY - THE TATTLE TALE? RAISON D'ETRE. BUT WE LOVE HER.
- MARCELLO LIKE A SECOND MOTHER... MOM SAYS YOU'RE GONNA HAVE A BABY... YOU SHOULD HAVE TOLD ME THAT YOU WERE HAVING SEX... BIRTH CONTROL
- GARY AND MARY ANN MOTHER DEAR WILL KNOW + SO WILL THE CHURCH... YOU DON'T HAVE TO APOLOGIZE TO THE CHURCH THEY DON'T HAVE TO KNOW
- WENDY TELLS PAM THAT EDDIE IS ON THE PHONE.
- EDDIE CALLED NEWS THAT HE IS GOING TO JOIN THE AIR FORCE... GOTTA DO IT... SUPPORT BABY THEN MARCELLO GOING OUT TONIGHT
- HOW DARE HE NOT TALK TO ME... RESTLESS NIGHT.
- NEXT MORNING TO GET DRESS IN TEN MINUTES... GOING DOWN TO ENGLAND... REMINDERS OF THE DIFFERENT THINGS MY COUSIN TOLD ME ABOUT ENGLAND... FIRST DAY... MAKE PRESENTATION TAKE ENOUGH CARE TO GET IT QUICKER, AND HAVE MRS. WILKINS TO DO.
- MET A FRIEND NAME CYRIL... WE REASSED EDDIE TO WHAT GARY WENT WAS GARY TALKING... NO TALKED OFF ON ABOUT EDDIE AND HOW HE WAS ACTING TALKING TO.

Figure 3: Play Writing Notes

Eddie reassures Pam that all will be well... "We could even get married."

Pam calls Angel and tells her.

Lawanna enters the living room...you should not have been having sex.

Maurice comes to the rescue.

Lawanda...the tattletale...raisin story...but we love her.

Marcella like a second mother..."Mom says you're gonna have a baby...you should have told me that you were having sex...birth control.

Grandma aka Mother Dear will know and so will the church...no you don't have to apologize to the church they don't have to know.

Lawanna tells Pam that Eddie is on the phone.

Eddie gives news that he's going to join the Air Force...gotta do it...support baby...then marriage...going out tonight.

How dare he not talk to me...restless night.

Next morning get dressed in tennis shoes...going down to Emerson...reminded of the different things my cousins told me about Emerson...first day...more pregnant girls.

Take enough courses to get out quicker, and have more work to do.

Met a friend named Cynthia we related equally to what each other was going through...we talked often about Eddie and how he was acting towards me.

After having a clear understanding of what took place within each chapter I referred back to my list and began writing each scene. Everything fell smoothly into place as specific ideas came to mind.

I will admit that this is a God idea, which is therefore a great idea, and He is faithfully guiding me through this process. I have had a number of people and books that aided within this process as well as some personal notes that were given to me concerning the writing of *Winners Don't Quit*.

At the very beginning of my internship with People's Theatre the new Executive Director, Donald Polk, for some reason or another began to give me playwriting lessons. These lessons were extremely helpful: I was able to discuss my beginning writings with him, and he gave some effective notes that I immediately used as an adjustment. I remember telling him the narrator would appear throughout the play to help tell the story, and he suggested how this idea would partially work, and not work. It was then up to me to decide if I wanted to go along with his advice. As I continued to tell Mr. Polk exactly how the opening of the play was running he inserted I was letting the audience know too soon that Pamela was pregnant, and this choice wasn't a good one. He encouraged me to build up the character some more for the audience so that they could get to know her a little better. And that's what I did. I believe this was an excellent choice to make. We also did some work on a short story...I forgot the name of it, but this was a story that he adapted into a first-rate play. We went section by section while I tried to figure out how to tell this story through the use of characters, costumes, set designs, and props. It was so amazing...I never had a playwriting teacher show me such ideas. One important lesson I learned was that the original character from the story doesn't have to be the one to tell her story. Her story can be told through another character in relation to her or it can be told by a narrator or it can be told through props, and with a fancy set. Not only does this technique add levels to the play, but also it causes the viewer to see it at a different angle. Mr. Polk was indeed a great help to me. He later encouraged me to teach a playwriting course within the Total Theatre Program at the Winter Park Community Center.

This chore was a part of my internship and I was excited for the opportunity. Although my field of study is acting, I appreciated being asked to teach this class in particular. I knew I would learn valuable lessons and tools while preparing to become a playwriting teacher as well

upcoming playwright.

I remember early within the month of August or the latter part of July of 2006 going to the Salvation Army. Now, I always wanted to stop and go inside this store, and on this particular day, I stopped and found many cheap books. One of the books that I bought was entitled *Writing Your Own Plays* by Carol Korty. I had no idea this book would be used to help create a playwriting course outline I would pen to use as a guide while teaching, and taking my students on a journey called *From The Page To The Stage*, which can be found within Appendix B. Korty's book has basic and practical principles I needed to know as a teacher and growing playwright. The female author stated one of the first things I must do before writing was, choose a topic I was passionate about. I immediately got excited, because I was indeed full of passion concerning *WDQ*, and just by reading that statement confirmed that I'd starting out on the right track. The second tip she gave; I needed to know the story like the back of my hand, which meant I had to read the story again, again, and again. Previously, within this chapter there were two figures, which highlight play writing notes from chapter one that I wrote to help remember events taken place throughout the story. The same occurred throughout the rest of the remaining chapters. This greatly assisted in my knowing the story and the type of questions I needed to asks Dr. Bell that the book doesn't answer.

As I begin to learn of each event that took place within *WDQ* I took note of the beginning, middle, and end. Each event from the story has a beginning, middle and end. Some of the events can be merged together, some can be overlooked and not included, and some has to be left untouched so that the true value from a moment of what a character said or how it was said, and who she said it to would not be lost within the stage adaptation. Although every moment from the story won't be used, nothing can be overlooked, not considered or treated with

less value than a portion that is of high importance to the story line. The work placed into this project is so detailing, which can't be rushed.

When evaluating the characters and recreating them I had to make sure each one had their own distinct voice. I had to make sure their dialogue did not match each other. For example, distinction appears within the way a character speaks, the body language she constructs, and the way she corresponds to associates, that is if she responds at all. A character who is full of hate will most likely not tell someone that she loves them...when she does. Her conversation will be on the negative, which means she will attract and be drawn to negative people, places, and things. And if this is her nature the dialogue that comes from her needs to match her life style. If not, her words will play against and contradict her actions.

The personalities amongst the characters within this story are so great, and it had to be distinctive and evident even in the dialogue exchanged between the characters. I will say that Dr. Bell did an awesome job with retelling and writing out her story, which evolved into a descriptive piece of work. I was able to easily categorize as well as get a feel for the characters that were sassy vs. the ones that were cool, calm, and collected. When writing the scene with Angel, Pam, and Lawanna I knew either Angel or Lawanna needed to leave the scene after so many seconds. The two of them have similar personalities, and who would want to see two young women constantly going at each other's throat with disagreeing opinions when it really wasn't about them. They both intensify the scene while adding some great levels, but they can't be together within a scene for too long. I wonder if this truth is the same within real life.

With using the above technique, I was able to begin the writing process for *WDQ*. See chapter six for the excerpt.

CHAPTER FIVE: WDQ FIRST EXCERPT PREMIERE

Initially I had no idea I would stage a portion of this play so soon. I honestly did not plan it to be this way, but I am very glad at how things have unfolded. That is why God said to not lean on your own understanding, but in all your ways acknowledge Him and He shall direct your paths, Proverbs 3:5.

I am very active within my church, which is Antioch Missionary Baptist Church in Oviedo, Florida. At Antioch, we have a growing young adult ministry that is rising to the challenge to do more for the community. I suggested one day during a YAF meeting we should have a workshop for young adults that would help with specific issues we were dealing with. The idea was received, and they immediately assigned the task to me so that I could get started. At that moment, I honestly didn't know where to begin. Therefore, I came up with a plan to receive ideas on the type of workshops they would like to be involved in. That night I had everyone sign a list stating the category of workshop they'd attend. When the list came back, it was little to no help. Everyone stated pretty much the same thing: relationships, finances, and time management. Now the list wasn't bad, it just didn't seem too exciting to me at the time. Everyday for a few weeks I didn't know what to do. I was given the month of February of 2007 to establish this event, it was in December of 2006 when the meeting occurred, and my time was running out. And then it occurred to me who I could possibly book that would talk about all of the listed issues, plus more in an engaging manner.

Dr. Pamela McCauley-Bell came to mind for the workshop. I knew her price, and I knew we, the young adults, had pennies within our pockets. As a result, I began to wonder if Dr. Bell would be willing to donate her time...for free. One day within a meeting I asked Dr. Bell if she'd be willing to speak to the young adults...without charge...and she, without hesitation, said

that she would for me, and for Pastor Charles Jones. Now, Dr. Bell's fee just for speaking is near ten grand, and she is greatly worth it. Just by her saying she would, and showed a lot about her character...she could have easily said no or asked for half, but she didn't.

We had to work with Dr. Bell's schedule, which was no problem. The February date was no longer a possibility so we then re-scheduled to May 16, which was another bad date. The event was finally moved and set to June 30. This was great, because it gave me a lot of time to plan.

WDQ Event Planning

I wanted this event to be like no other, and I began to see visions of young adults displaying their gifts in unique ways throughout the lobby and within the sanctuary before Dr. Bell took the platform. My desire for this event was to empower all that attended so that they would seek out their calling if they didn't know it. Moreover, if they did know it, they needed to be encouraged to press forward within the work they were doing so they that too would make their mark for others to follow. I also wanted to make a special presentation to Dr. Bell for her kindness to us, and instead of giving her flowers I would present an excerpt of the script in her honor. Below is an excerpt of the ***Event Planning Packet***, which was sent to Pastor Jones, Dr. Bell and all of the committee members of the event.

***Special Presentations**

Chair, Evelyn Tyler

Co-chair, NEEDED

*After the main speaking event come special presentations. A portion of the special presentations will be of an excerpt from the stage adaptation of *Winners Don't Quit...Today They Call Me Doctor*, which will be presented to Dr. Bell in her honor. Other special presentations will be also made to those within respected positions. The remaining portion of the special presentation*

segment will be of a few raffles to audience members. See Appendix to view the event's entire planning packet.

Casting/Cast List

Mom would say, *anything worth having is worth working hard for*. I just didn't think I'd have to work this hard when casting *WDQ*. Casting this show was trying to give me a headache, it really was, but I wasn't having it. Initially, I had in mind who I would cast, so I called up certain individuals without auditioning them, and asked if they would be willing to do the show. They all excitedly said yes, but little did I know how quickly the yes would turn into a, *I'm sorry something came up, and I can't do it*. I remember reading within one rehearsal as the doctor, Maurice, the nurse, the teacher, Mrs. Bennett...I mean almost all of the characters except for two. The minority of the original cast members remained until the end, but the majority...well that's another story.

From the very start I had four fanatical actors who were always prepared and ready to work. Two of them are theatre majors at UCF, which means they know the game and rules of theatre. They were at every rehearsal that they said they would make, and they always brought their *A* game to the table. Yes, they are students, but I count as well as consider them professionals. So thank you very much Kerri Alexander (Teenage Pam), and Felicia Wright (Lawanna). The third person that I must give props as a director is to a new comer to the world of theatre named Fabiola Jean Gilles (Angel). She has a natural talent, who doesn't need much direction. Fabi is a free spirit that was open to go further within her role when asked, and this made me comfortable as a director. Last, Tamara Naar (Dr. Pamela McCauley- Bell). My pastor referred her to me. I was in a meeting with Pastor Jones and told him needed more people to do the show. He immediately mentioned Tamara by giving her name and number. Pastor Jones

stated Tamara reminded him of Dr. Bell, and that was all I needed to hear. I wanted the characters to resemble the people they would portray so I immediately called Tamara the next day, and she was committed ever since. She is a true professional and took this job very seriously. So, I quickly became very relaxed with these four young ladies, because with them I knew they would perform the roles with great justice. Okay, so that's four characters down with five more to go.

Where do I begin? As I mentioned earlier, *I remember reading within one rehearsal as the doctor, Maurice, the nurse, the teacher, Mrs. Bennett...I mean almost all of the characters except for two...*this is so true! And I don't ever want to find this funny. As I think back at those moments no true theatre company would have tolerated what I was going through. They wouldn't have put up with the inconsistencies...everybody would have been fired, the show would have been postpone, cancelled, deferred, anything except for disrespected. And throughout those beginning stages of the rehearsal period I felt so disrespected as an artist. I was dealing with a number of people who just don't understand how theatre operates, and that it isn't a leisure game or simple activity. For them, maybe, but for me...Nooo! Theatre is greatly a part of me. I believe that I have a calling within it, as well as diverse gifts that lends itself to theatre, and I felt like me and my goods were being trampled over, and improperly fondled. And I do believe that I have a case...I just need a lawyer.

As I state my case to defend myself I will not talk about anyone who took me through the emotional ranger...I just can not and will not do it. Okay, so how will I talk about the remaining five characters? First, let me just back up a little. Although I was down to the last few weeks with out the entire cast God kept me sane, and kept me going. Even though I felt like doing the opposite of what I was proclaiming within the title of this play, God allow me to not quit. I

remember Him speaking to me one night while driving home from rehearsal, *My strength is made perfect in weakness*. And I knew this to be so true, because I felt a sense of strength while wanting to focus on the negative, but yet I couldn't. Thank God I couldn't! God over powered my emotions as He reminded me of the vision He'd given to me, and I am so thankful for Christ. SO, I will not say anything bad about what someone said or did to me during this process, because it didn't break me. It helped refine me as well as pronounce the greatness on the inside of me.

Gaining the other actors to complete the cast came out of the blue. Those moments felt like past memories of *Lord, how will I gas up my car this week or how will I pay rent*, and then out of nowhere, gas is in the car and the rent is paid...miraculously by someone sliding me a few extra dollars in the tone of *I just wanted to do something for you, God bless you*. All you have to do is let your request be made known unto God and He'll handle the rest. And as I sit at my computer to type these words I can literally turn my head to the left to see the closed door to my room, which has a hanging colorful shoe rack along with two prayer requests. One of the requests states the following: ACCOMPLISH YOUR GOALS: **1.** Pray and ask God for directions on casting the following characters: Mrs. Bennett, Mrs. Lafrance, & Doctor **2.** Pray and ask God to give you complete direction on your thesis and *WDQ* play **3.** Go forth and write a plan to help fulfill each goal **4.** *Become the author of your success*, –Dr. Bell **5.** Graduate with Masters **6.** Work with Tyler Perry. Following the list came my praise and thanks to God for making it all happen. So far I have witnessed and experienced all of them slowly coming to past.

As the word states, faith without works is dead, which means I had to show God I wanted this to work, and that I would help by at least making some type of effort while staying in position, in place, and in His will. Therefore, I remember writing out a list of people I could

possibly call to join on board to play the different characters. After I had my list, I began to rate each person as who I favored the most to play a particular role. In the end one actor was chosen from the list, and the final four like I said earlier, just popped up out of the blue, coming to mind and out of nowhere.

On June 6th I was making a gift for my deacon and his family. I had just received news that they would be relocating to Atlanta, so I wanted to make them something. So, after helping out with the arts and crafts at my church I went to one of the classrooms to begin work on an art project for the Wright's. When I was almost finish with the project I stepped out of the room to see Shani Lodge passing through the hall, and as she passed, the thought popped in my mind to ask her. I don't know how many times I saw Shani on that day, and on the day before, but the thought never crossed my mind until then. A secured suggestion of her joining the cast filled me, and I immediately called out to her. She, like everyone, listened to what I had to say, then agreed to add more to her schedule. Shani has a great presence about her, which is settled on a sure foundation. And this assured me all would be well with Shani and myself by having her on the team. It would be the week of the 20th when I would hear her line delivery, and when I did, I was so impressed, and again, greatly thankful. Shani is very articulate and very sophisticated in a humble manner, which is very attractive. She, like Felicia, Fabi, and Kerri always came equipped and prepared to work. Shani did her work before coming to work, and what can I say or do, but say thank you Jesus. Things were speedily getting better with casting.

Before leaving my apartment, I always plan the things I need to do as well as the places I need to go, and here goes the second kernel popping up...Mr. Anthony Davis! He was a guy that didn't even make the premeditated list. But anyway, I immediately called Erica for his number. She then called Anthony for me, and stated I would be calling. I phoned Anthony, and explained

what I needed for the show. He was so thrilled to join the cast, which made me extremely happy. Yeah Anthony Davis (Maurice McCauley)! He even showed up to rehearsal that night. Even though I missed rehearsal, because of the Total Theatre Project, he still showed up and did his thing. Working with Anthony was an honor, because he too, was like Fabi, open to try without shame. This taught me to do the same. He would do these crazy & unnatural gestures with his hands while talking, and I had to direct him on watching his movement, which were distracting instead of conducive. He would take the note and immediately implement change. What I appreciate most about him is his ability to receive correction and direction. He never became defensive to justify his ways are choices...he always took notes, which he would immediately apply. As a director I felt safe to share what I needed to say with Anthony, because I knew he would respect my feelings and judgment as a director.

So, I continued on practicing for weeks without all of the cast members. Within the last two weeks of the rehearsal period, I still didn't have all of the cast members, and that's when I became desperate. I started scoping out people within the church parking lot who possibly could take on the roles that I needed to badly cast. And then there they were...I saw them in my rear view mirror, Rose and Kency McCombe...a husband and wife combo. I thought to myself, *Lord I am really tired of getting my hopes up with promising people, and then being let down by them.* I sat in my car for a good minute before moving. I considered my options, which I realized I didn't have, and quickly got out. I presented to Mrs. McCombe what I was working on by handing her a planning packet and script. She accepted with a puzzling look on her face. She agreed to look over everything, and would later call to let me know if they could or not. I thanked her and began to walk away.

While I walked back to the car I began to wonder if their answer would be yes. At that

moment, I started to not care, but that feeling immediately left...thank God. All of this was really not in my hands. God had orchestrated everything...I just had to walk it out, and boy oh boy was I out of shape. I just wasn't use to things unraveling so quickly after just sewing and piecing time consuming work together. Casting this show taught me how persistent I needed to be...when one door closes go to the next without the pity party. Something will eventually open up for me were constantly my thoughts...it just had to, because I was gonna do this show! The next day I didn't get my phone call at all, but when I saw her at church she gave me my yes.

The last person to join the cast was Amanda Stephen (Teacher & Nurse); she was a member of the premeditated list. I was glad to list her, because I knew her work ethic and style, which is a great asset to have on any team type. Amanda and I did a show together last year, and we car-pooled most of the time to rehearsals. She is also a theatre major at UCF. When I called and told Amanda what was going on she immediately had my back. I was badly in need of an understudy, and Amanda said she would do it. Amanda eventually cast within the understudy roles. I was extremely glad that she committed to this project while having other commitments she was catering to.

I finally had my entire cast the week before the event. The night before the event I finally had my entire cast rehearsing together. Please don't get me wrong...throughout the rehearsal process I worked with the actors that showed up. Sometimes it would be two or three or five. Either way we worked, and when the last rehearsal came I was able to piece the entire show together. Worries of any thoughts this show was going to be of a low quality left my mind 12:02am...Saturday morning...the day of the event.

Evelyn D. Tyler	Director
David Patterson	Stage Manager
Evelyn D. Tyler	Set Designer
Dennis Neal	Acting Coach
Amanda Stephens	Teacher & Nurse
Shani H. Lodge	Mrs. Bennett
Tamara Naar	Dr. Pamela McCauley-Bell & Narrator
Kerri Alexander	Teenage Pamela McCauley
Felicia Wright	Lawanda McCauley
Fabiola Jean Gilles	Angel
Kency McComby	Doctor
Evelyn Tyler	Mrs. Lafrance McCauley
Anthony Davis	Maurice McCauley
Rose McComby	Marcella McCauley

Amanda Stephen

as

Teacher & Nurse



Figure 4 Teacher & Nurse

Shani H. Lodge

as

Mrs. Bennett



Figure 5 Mrs. Bennett

Tamara Naar

as

Dr. Pamela McCauley-Bell/Narrator



Figure 6 Dr. Pamela McCauley-Bell

Kerri Alexander
as
Teenage Pamela McCauley



Figure 7 Teenage Pamela McCauley

Felicia Wright
as
Lawanda McCauley (blue jacket)



Figure 8 Lawanda McCauley

Fabiola Jean-Gilles
as
Angel



Figure 9 Angel

Kency McCombe
as
Doctor

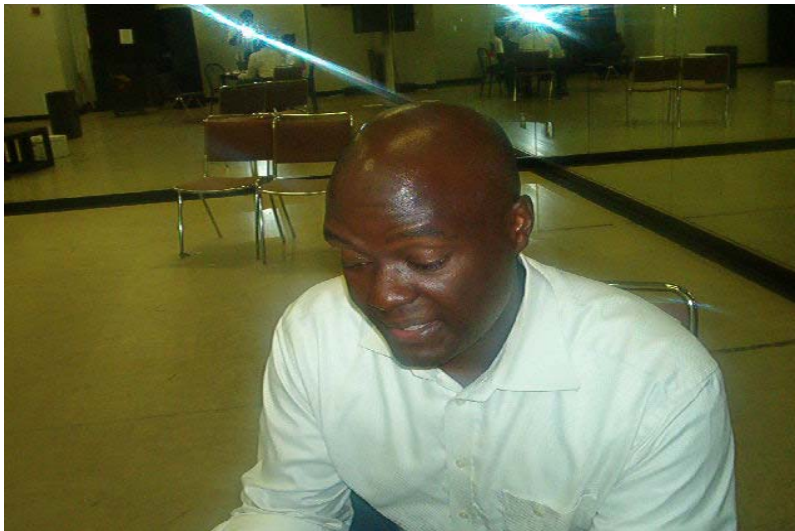


Figure 10 Doctor

Writer & Director
Evelyn Tyler
as
Mrs. Lafrance



Figure 11 Mrs. Lafrance

Anthony Davis
as
Maurice

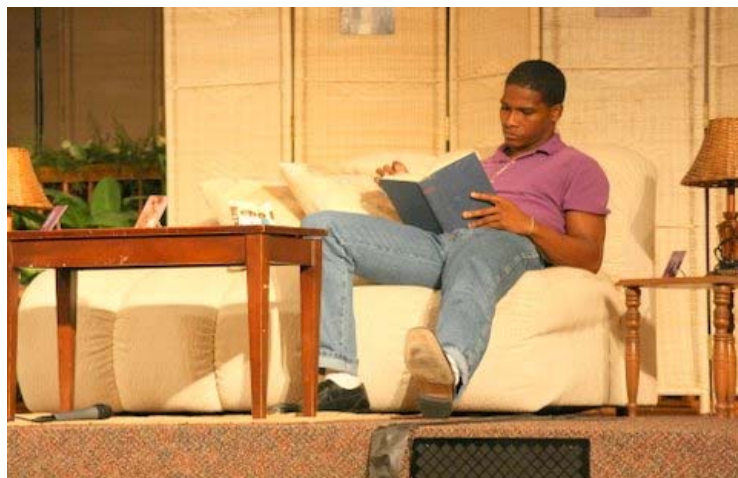


Figure 12 Maurice

Rose Ellen McCombe

as

Marcella



Figure 13 Marcella

Directing

Directing the actors and giving them blocking notes was a simple task, because I'd learn from other great directors such as Rus Blackwell, Dennis Neal, Canara Price, Chris Jorie, and Mark Brotherton. Typically, I had to go back over the script to reinstate blocking notes, even though they all took good notes I still had to reinstate and sometimes change blocking...especially when I began to see it walked out. End the end they all executed every calculated move. Also, what I had to do a number of times with some of the actors was have them go back over certain lines they'd misinterpret. Emphasis would be misplaced within the line delivery, and I would stop and ask them questions concerning why the character said what she said. I spoke to them about intentions and motives being behind the lines, and I encourage them all to find what they were. I would always relate every challenge that anyone of the actors would face with their lines to everyday life. I stated this was work, which they've already done,

and that they've spoken those very lines to someone. Someone has made them laugh or cry, and have caused them to speak those very lines. So, I constantly encouraged them to find those moments within the dialogue, and to naturally relive them through their delivery.

WDQ Floor Plan

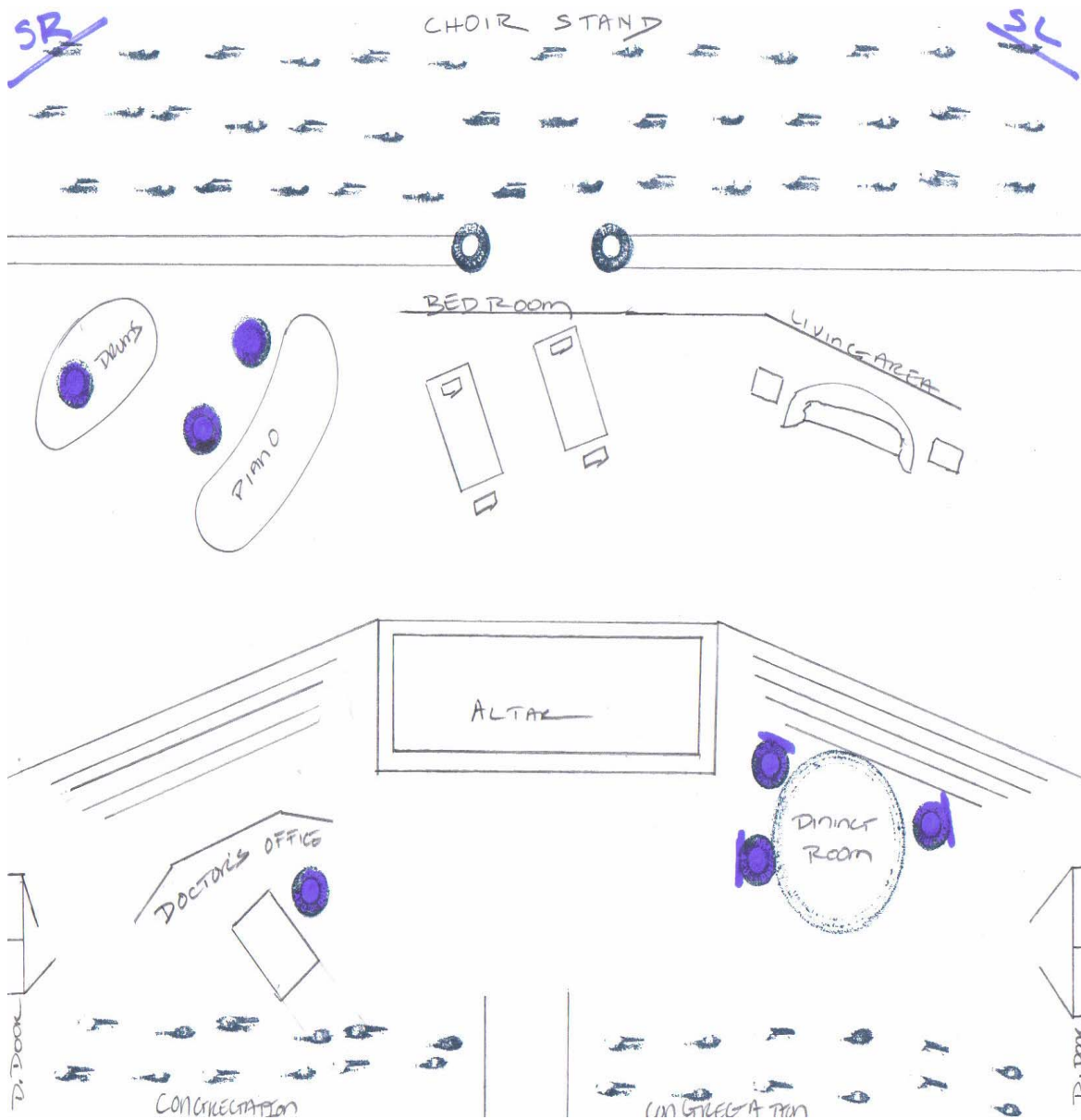


Figure 14 WDQ Floor Plan

I designed the WDQ floor plan, which features the lay out of the living area, bedroom, doctor's office, & dining room. The parallel black stripes represent the seating of the congregation and choir stand. Downstage center is the built in altar. Upstage right is the music area. Although the choir stand, altar, & music area were not a part of any of the scenes, I had to include it within the drawing so that the space would be appropriately marked.

Before drawing out the floor plan, I re-read the script to find out the type of set I needed. As I re-read, I created a prop list, sound cue list, as well as the list of scenes. After all was said and done, I knew I needed three types of rooms within the McCauley home, and a doctor's office.

From the center stage over to stage left is the inside of the McCauley home. Downstage right is away from the McCauley home, which is of course the doctor's office. It took me a total of fifteen minutes to draw this up, because I was pressed for time and didn't want to be late for rehearsal. And on that night, this drawing immediately came in handy. The floor plan gave cast members a visual image of the old rehearsal space now turning new as well as a close feel to the space they would later perform in. The night that I handed the floor plan out to the cast, Dennis Neal suggested I set the rehearsal space like the plan. I have no idea what I was thinking, but I was so thankful he was. Immediately the actors and myself immediately placed everything according to the plan. This was a small change to the rehearsal area, but it had a great/large effect on the actors. The actors slid deeper into their characters on that night, which was awesome to see. The shift within their acting was immense. The actors weren't just reciting lines, they were living and feeling the lines as never before. Also, the actors were now able to understand more of my vision as well as respect it.

The Set



Figure 15 Living Area



Figure 16 Bedroom



Figure 17 Living Area L View



Figure 18 Dining Table



Figure 19 Doctors Office



Figure 20 Bedroom F. View

The set is a make up of four backdrops and furniture pieces from a number of households. I didn't spend a dime towards the set. Originally, I spoke with a young artist to design one, but plans changed. The four backdrops/separators that we used came from church. They were perfect!

Within the doctors office we had real equipment; such as the patient bed, stepping stool, and a blood pressure machine, which all came from a reeeeeeeal hospital! A good friend of mine was able to get what I needed for the doctor scene...thanks friend! Within the dining room of the McCauley home there was a table with three chairs, which came from the church. On the table rested a cake, two bowls, and a phone, which came from Publix, the church kitchen, and UCF's Conservatory Theatre prop closet. Within the living area were two end tables, which came from Sonshine Community Thrift, a coffee table, which came from church, two lamps, and a rug, which came from my bedroom, the couch was borrowed from the McCombe's. Within Pam's bedroom there were a number of boxes that I got from Costco's, and the bed was loaned from Tamara. Oh, and the sheets were Felicia's. Almost everybody within the cast chipped in, and gave what was needed to make a beautiful set. The set was not only striking, but warm from all of the love that was placed within it.

Props

Scenic props not only help decorate the set, but they also add a special value to the character. Some of the props from the play can be viewed from the audience and some can not. Below are two props that I made, which were less visible to the audience.



Dr. Kincie Drakes

7/10/78
9:38 AM

Westward Community Clinic
1453 Hideaway Avenue
Midwest City, Oklahoma

Annual Checkup
Report: Complete

Facilitators: Dr. K.
Drakes & Nurse
Angela Byson

Attendees: 2

Please read: Immed.

Please bring: C. Stat

----- Test Results -----

Blood work	Pamela McCauley	Positive
Urinalysis	Pamela McCauley	Positive

Other Information

Observer: Nurse Angela Byson

Resource person: Dr. Kincie Drakes

Special notes: The patient is currently three weeks pregnant and needs to be notified. The pains that she stated to have stems from usual pregnancy sickness.

Figure 21 Lab Results

Second, here are the photos from the coffee table, which are pictured on my footstool.



Figure 22 Photo Front

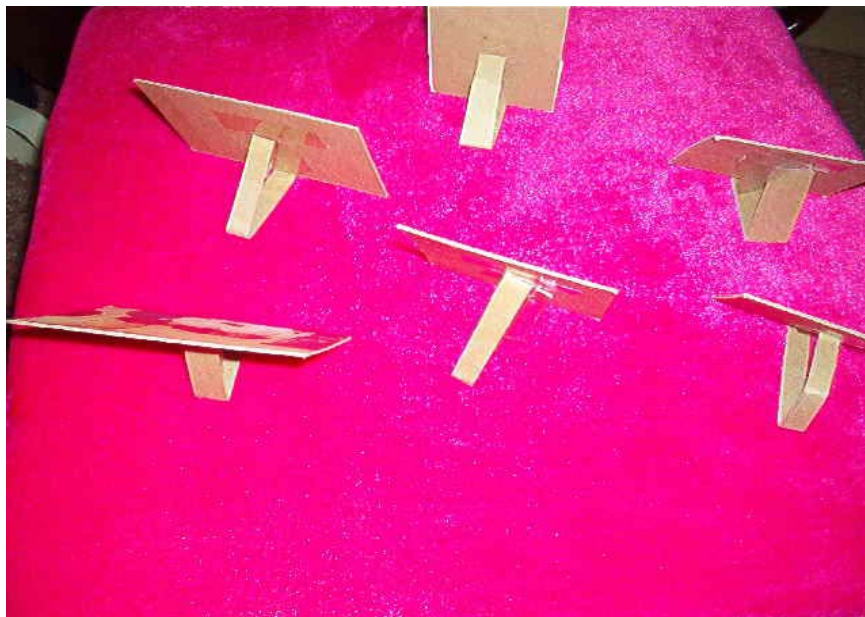


Figure 23 Photo Back

First, I have a created copy of the staged results of Pamela's blood and urinalysis test. This was the actually copy used within the play. It was presented by the nurse to the doctor after

he asked, “How does everything look?” The doctor then receives a clipboard with several papers attached. The first sheet the doctor sees is Pam’s lab results, which reads at the bottom: *the patient is currently three weeks pregnant and needs to be notified. The pains that she stated to have stems from usual pregnancy sickness.* To make this type of statement I went under *New* within *Microsoft Word* and opened up *Other Documents* and finally opened *Agenda Wizards*. I then followed the steps to create a document I thought best fit the style of paperwork found within a clinic. I basically used my judgment while rearranging the style *Microsoft* offered, as well as going with what I felt was right. I made sure the information was close to being correct. Now, everything on the paperwork is not accurate like the date and time Pamela McCauley went to the doctor’s office, and the name of the office, but I know I am correct about the place being in Oklahoma. I enjoyed making this statement, as well as having it as part of the props!

Following the doctor’s report are some photos Mrs. LaFrance McCauley (Dr. Bell’s mom) sent me. There were hundreds of family photos, and it was hard to choose the right ones. This is just a minuscule portion of the photos I turned into little frames for the coffee table, which set before the sofa within the living area. I took the originals to Kinko’s and made color copies. I returned home to evenly cut them out. For the foundation of the photos, I used a piece of cardboard, which was found within a pack of stationary I purchased a while back, but just didn’t throw away. My thoughts were, *I can use this cardboard one-day*, and so I saved it (I confess...I am a true conserver!☺). And so...I did use it! You just don’t know how happy I was to use that cardboard after a few years of saving it. I probably brought it to Florida with me when I moved from South Carolina. But anyway, while making the cardboard backing for the photos I made sure it was evenly cut to match the exact size of the pictures. I then took the remaining strips of cardboard and used it as a stand, which I taped to the back of the cardboard

frame. Finally, the pictures stood at a nice angle like regular store bought picture frames.

Costumes



Figure 24 Mr. Tight



Figure 25 Closet Fashion



Figure 26 Closet Fashion

The time period for the play is present day along with flash backs into the latter part of the seventies. So, throughout the rehearsal process I encourage the cast members to look for items within their closets that would work for the show. What is so unique about fashion and life is the repetitive cycle. The latest fashion of today was once the fashion from the 50's, 60's and 70's. I only had to shop for Anthony who played Maurice. This was a true treat! I remember texting Anthony to let him know he needed to wear tight jeans and a fitted tee for his character, and he quickly texted, "I don't own anything tight!" I told him we would go to Wal-Mart that night for his tightness. So, the first picture is of Anthony standing outside of a Wal-Mart dressing room. He of course wore this outfit with white socks, and black church shoes. LOL!



Figure 27 Closet Fashion



Figure 28 Closet Fashion & Mr. Tight

CHAPTER SIX: WINNERS DON'T QUIT SCRIPT

Winners Don't Quit Excerpt

By

Evelyn D. Tyler

Adapted

From the Book

Winners Don't Quit...Today They Call Me Doctor

By

Dr. Pamela McCauley-Bell

The Making & Writing of the Stage Production
Of
Winners Don't Quit

Time: Present Day

Setting: The Auditorium of Emerson Alternative School

Characters
In
Order of Appearance

Mrs. Bennett
3-4 Female Students
Teacher
Dr. Pamela McCauley-Bell/Narrator
Teenage Pam
Lawanda
Angel
Mrs. LaFrance
Doctor
Nurse
Maurice
Marcella

The play begins with lights up on entire house and stage. Enters a woman named Mrs. Bennett who starts the beginning dialogue of the show, but to the audience she is merely giving theatre etiquette notes.

Mrs. Bennett:

Good evening everyone. We are just about to get started. If you haven't done so, I ask that you silence all cell phones and electronic devices. (*Pregnant students appear within the aisles passing out sheets of paper.*) Also, please note there should not be any photographs taken of Dr. Bell throughout the seminar. We also encourage you to write down all questions you have for Dr. Bell on a piece of paper, which will be collected at the end of the discussion. You may include your name or be anonymous. Now some of you have already submitted questions online and one will be chosen to jumpstart the discussion. But, before Dr. Bell comes before us I want to thank all of you for being excellent parents to your children...(*School bell rings*)...who are our students here at Emerson Alternative. We just welcome the idea of...(Mrs. Bennett is interrupted by one of the teachers.)

Teacher:

...excuse me Mrs. Bennett, but we are at time.

Mrs. Bennett:

Time?

Teacher:

Well...we need to get started.

Mrs. Bennett:

Oh! I was just getting to that (*looks out and smiles*) and the girls are finishing with passing out the sheets...of paper. Okay, yes, it looks like my helpers have finished so let's get started. (*The Teacher exits.*) Now I can tell all that needs to be said about our guest who comes here every year to speak to our young women, but it's her desire to tell you her story so please welcome Dr. Pamela McCauley-Bell!

Mrs. Bennett starts the applause as she exits. Dr. Bell enters from the house and crosses center stage in a sharp business suit.

Dr. Bell/Narrator:

Thank you! Thank you for the gracious applause. Now why don't you give yourself a hand for being supportive role models to your children. Again, I am Dr. Pamela McCauley-Bell. Like Mrs. Bennett mentioned every year I return to Emerson to speak with the young ladies about their future, and I believe the family unit is so important, which is why this year I wanted to include the entire family, and I am so excited to see so great of a turn out. Now... my desire with this workshop "is to encourage, motivate, and help all those who I encounter to be all they can be in attaining and reaching for their true purpose and goals." And how do I expect to do this...by sharing with you the pieces of my life that weren't so pretty. Often times the road to success is too glamorized so much until when something bad happens to the person she gives up, because when she last saw the road to success it didn't have thorns or rocks along its path. And my path had rocks, bushes, over grown trees, and whatever else you can think of. But look at me today! Now I'm not bragging...just testifying that despite your circumstance you can and will achieve greatness, because it's within you. *(Mrs. Bennett raises her hand and is acknowledged by Dr. Bell who takes a piece of paper from her.)* It's that time? Alright. Throughout the week we had a number of people log in and submit questions online for tonight. And the one that was chosen...*(she reads paper)* this is a good one...Elleese asks, "How did you become a student at Emerson?" *(Begins to smile.)* Well Elleese, my Aunt suggested to my mother that Emerson would be a perfect fit for what I was in need of at the time. It was 1978 we had just moved back into...*(Lights begin to go down on Dr. Bell as she crosses offstage. Lights come up on flashbacks of her past.)*

(Lawanda enters carrying a moving box. Pam and Angel giggles in while carrying two pillows.)

Lawanda:

(Turns and notices the two.) Uh un I'm telling mama. Angel why are you here if you're not helping? You and Pam haven't stopped talking since you got here. You're suppose to be helping unpack our stuff.

Angel:

(Holds up the pillow.) It's my mouth Lawanda and I am helping...I'm carrying Pam's pillow. *(Pam and Angel giggles.)*

Lawanda:

(Holds out the box.) So...I'm carrying Pam's box...was carrying Pam's box. *(She shoves Pam the box causing her to drop the pillow.)* Here...carry it yourself! *(Exits grumbling.)*
Mamaaaaaaaaaa!

Pam:

That girl can work a nerve. It ain't even that serious.

(Offstage voice of Mrs. Lafrance is heard.)

Mrs. Lafrance:

Pamela! You and Angel need to stop playin' and get to work!

Pam & Angel:

Yes Maaaaam! Yes Auntie!

Pam:

Come on let's put this stuff away. There is a lot to be done and *Miss Know It All* is watching us, but we can still talk and work at the same time.

Angel:

Okay. What do you need me to do?

Pam:

You can unload the boxes of clothes while I make up the beds.

Angel:

Okay. *(She begins unloading clothes and finds a photo of a man.)* How long do you think it will take us to finish cuz I...oh ooh...now I have a question. *(Holds up the picture)* How do you wear this?

Pam:

(Snatches for the picture.) Give me that.

Angel:

Not until you tell me who this chocolate wonder is, and if I can have a piece.

Pam:

Angel!

Angel:

What? *(Hands her the photo.)* Don't share then.

Pam:

(A little frustrated.) You know what...I told Lawanda to put this with the other pictures. Now it's all wrinkle.

Angel:

Put an iron to it...it'll be fine. Must be someone mighty special.

Pam:

(Begins to smile while smoothing out the wrinkles.) He is. This chocolate wonder as you call him...is Eddie. Ain't he fine?! Girl I call him Hershey.

Angel:

(Snatches the photo.) Hershey?! Must be Hershey Dark Chocolate! Look at him! Shoot, mess around and get a cavity. *(They both laugh.)* So this is Eddie? *(To the photo.)* Hello Eddie. Nice to finally meet ya. *(Looks up to notice Pam in her own little world.)* Uh Uh. Tell me. You know I'm nosey...you know this...so I want to know. Tell me.

Pam:

What? Know what? There's nothing to say.

Angel:

Pam.

Pam:

Angel.

Angel:

Pam.

Pam:

Angel.

Angel:

Pam stop playing. We tell each other everything. Now tell me.

Pam:

What am I to tell you?

Angel:

Well this is an over grown man Pam. He looks too experienced for you.

Pam:

(Snatches the photo) What is that suppose to mean? Eddie is eighteen.

Angel:

And how old are you?

Pam:

Fifteen.

Angel:

Thank you for finally being honest. Now are you two having sexual relations? Like I said, he looks too experienced and an over grown man like this is doing something he shouldn't. And you dating him...say something. You mighty quiet.

Pam:

I'm quiet because I can't believe what's coming out of your mouth. I am not at that stage within my life of having sex...especially unprotected sex. One...it ain't right, and two...I am not about to be tripped up into pregnancy so that I have to stand in front of somebody's church apologizing for being hot and fast. Un huh...no mam...not me.

Angel:

Well good for you girl. I just wanted to make sure. It ain't none of my business no how. So how have you been?

Pam:

Good I guess...missing him all the time though. Wondering what he's doing and if he's thinking about me.

Angel:

Can he kiss?

Pam:

What? Okay let's talk about something else.

Angel:

No I wanna talk about this.

Pam:

No, you wanna be nosey. That's what you wanna be. I'm not about to sit here and tell you my business. We family and all, but I don't know who you report to after you leave me. And if you talk like this around me I can only imagine how you talk around others. So no...I'm through with this conversation. Now if you would...please help make up the beds.

Angel:

What?! The beds?! Un uh that's your job, and mine was assigned to handle the items within this box.

Pam:

(Takes the box and places it on the floor.) Not any more...change of plans. Now I'll finish the box while you make up the beds.

Angel:

Okay...that's fine with me. It's not like I'm the one that put the picture in the box and now you don't want me to come across who knows what that could be hiding within this little box. But I am a helper, and I'm here to help. *(Begins to make up the bed)* Now where's the pillowcase for the pillow?

Pam:

I don't know. Check the box.

Angel:

(Angel happily bounces to the box and immediately finds something else.)
Okay. Ooooooh Pam! What's this?*Offstage voice of Mrs. Lafrance.*

Mrs. Lafrance

Angel your dad is here! *(Angel and Pam exit.)*

The Narrator enters.

Narrator:

Oh that Angel was something, and still is. She eventually found something else within that box, which almost led to another discussion. I was glad when her dad came and got her. But then again, the room was now left for me to clean all by myself. Before finishing up I began to feel a little nauseous. Mom asked what was wrong, and I told her I really didn't know so she insisted we go to the doctor first thing in the morning.

(Enters Pamela who crosses to the patient's bed.) But there was nothing wrong with me...mom still insisted. So there I was waiting in a doctor's office...on a used up patients bed trying to get comfortable. And I just knew that it was a waste of time. Man in my day there wasn't a thing that a few Roloids and an Alka-Seltzer couldn't treat, and that was all I needed! *(Looks back at the teenage Pamela)*. So there I was...waiting, and wasting my time.

Pam:

I wish these people would hurry up. I could be watching General Hospital.

Outside of the patient room enters a doctor and nurse who cross to each other.

Doctor:

How does everything look?

Nurse:

(Passes a clipboard to him.) Here are the results on the urinalysis and blood work.

Doctor:

(Examines the results.) Okay. How old is she?

Nurse:

She's a young one...fifteen.

Doctor:

(Looks up.) Wow. My my my. You know at fifteen I was more concerned with the details of my future jaguar. *(Looks back down.)*

Nurse:

I was the same way, but too busy keeping up with the latest fashion...and a baby was not the typical accessory to match your handbag if you know what I mean.

Doctor:

Yeah, and in this case she'll be looking for a baby bag instead of a handbag...well listen...locate Mrs. McCauley while I go in with the patient.

(He enters the room and sits at the end of the office while staring at Pam in disbelief. Pamela hurries to sit up.)

Pam:

(Concerned) I'm sorry, but why are you looking at me?

Doctor:

Well forgive me, but...well Pam, you were right about not being sick, but...(Pam cuts him off).

Pam:

(Confident) I knew it. I told you I felt fine, and that I wasn't sick. I even told my mother the same thing, but I'm here...hearing what I've known all a long. (Trying to work her way down from the bed). Thank you for your...

Doctor:

Pamela wait a minute. Yes you're not sick, but you are pregnant. (Time passes as silence rushes in.)

Doctor:

Are you okay. (Pam doesn't respond). Pam...are you okay?

Pam:

(In disbelief) Are you sure? Are you sure that I'm...can your test be wrong?

Doctor:

There's always a chance a test is wrong, but we're reasonably certain you're pregnant, so...if you'd like to get another test scheduled for tomorrow this will not be a problem. But...today we have to share this information with your mother.

Pam:

NO! I don't want her to know!

Doctor:

I'm sorry, but I am required to share this information with her. Do you want to tell her? (Pam quickly shakes her head, "no". The doctor then crosses to leave). Well Pam she needs to know, and we need to get her from the waiting ar...(He stops and crosses to Pam).

Pam:

...No, please!

Doctor:

Pam...listen...it will be okay. Would you like for me to tell her? (*Pam nods "yes"*).
Okay.

Before he can exit the Nurse appears with Mrs. McCauley.

Mrs. LaFrance:

Hey baby. Is everything okay? (*Pam doesn't respond*) Doctor how's Pam?

Doctor:

Well...I'm not sure if it's good news or bad news...

Mrs. LaFrance:

Well exactly what's the problem?

Doctor:

Um, your daughter mam... is pregnant.

Mrs. LaFrance:

(Losing balance) What?! Pregnant?! (*Now looking at Pam*). Pamela...

Pam:

...mom I'm sorry...I didn't mean to.

Mrs. LaFrance:

What do you mean you didn't mean to?! What happened?! Huh? Were you raped?
No...I don't think so, because Eddie would not have raped you with his over grown
behind!

Pam:

(*To embarrass to answer*) No...mom...no he didn't.

Doctor:

I'll leave the two of you alone so...(Begins to exit)

Mrs. LaFrance:

...Um Doctor I don't think that would be a good idea, because I am feeling some things
right now. (*Doctor turns back around*) What am I to do? Huh? And are you certain this

test is accurate?

Doctor:

Well Mrs. McCauley, it would be okay to get a second opinion, but our tests are always pretty accurate.

Mrs. LaFrance:

Well that's what I'm gonna do. We're gonna get a second opinion. Pam get yourself together and let's go. (*Begins to leave and turns back*) Pamela I said lets go!

Pam:

Yes mam. (*Pam gets up, and gathers her things and exits while the Narrator appears.*)

Dr. Bell/Narrator:

Okay... so I thought it was a waste of time. I remember that moment so clear like it was yesterday. When we got into the car my mother wouldn't say a word...she just cried. She was not the only one...when we arrived home my shirt was soaking wet from my tears. I headed straight for my room and cried some more. I remember praying to God to take what was happening away, but after the second Dr. confirmed I was pregnant I knew that was one prayer that went unanswered. So I now had to deal with the consequences.

Mrs. LaFrance:

(*On the phone*) Yes. I'm certain, and they're certain. We have been to doctor after doctor, and then to an abortion clinic where it was made known Pamela is to far along to have an abortion. And you know what...I don't even know what I was thinking having my child up in there. Abortions are wrong, and besides that's my grandbaby. God knows what He's doing. I don't know who she's carrying, but it's someone mighty great HE created. So yeah child...I'm gonna be a grandmama again. (*Enters Pam. Mrs. LaFrance gets up and leaves*) And do you know they said if we really didn't want to have this child we could go to Denver...and they could carry on with the procedures there.

Pam:

Who is she talking to?

Maurice:

To our Aunts.

Pam:

All of them?

Maurice:

Yeah...everybody is over at Aunt Camille's passing the phone to each other. (*Looks at Pam*) Pam it's gonna be alright.

Pam:

Then it's final...if she's talking to them it's final, and we're not going to Denver. Maurice what am I gonna do with a baby? (*Begins to weep*)

Maurice:

Pam don't worry.

Pam:

Easy to say, but it ain't as easy as you think.

Maurice:

Well...yes it is.

Pam:

How you know? You ain't the one with a baby growing in you. Now I'm scared Maurice.

Maurice:

I know you are, but do you remember the days when we were little and mom had us walking to school?

Pam:

What?

Maurice:

You know when we were little...mom had us walking to school.

Pam:

Yeah I remember...how can I forget.

Maurice:

Do you remember that one time when you dropped your books while trying to cross by the fence with the mean ol' dog inside?

Pam:

Umm hmm....I remember. I didn't wanna go to school that day. I turned around wanting to go back home.

Maurice:

But you couldn't, because of ...

Pam & Maurice:

...Mama! (*They both laugh*)

Pam:

Oh...I use to hate those walks. Thank God you were there. I remember you saying "no Pam he can't get us. Wait here. I'll go get your books." (*Smiles*) And you did. You rescued and carried my books like a big man, and then delivered me to safety. Man I was so scared...

Maurice:

Exactly! But the fact is...you faced your reality. There was nothing about that moment that you could have changed...so you faced it.

Pam:

That's because you were with me, and I had your help.

Maurice:

Pam you still faced it. Yes, I was there to protect you, but it was you who faced and overcame that moment. So don't you know the same power that was within you when you were 10 years old is still within you today. Which means, despite how bad the situation may be there is some good waiting to come forth...if you want it. Now it's gonna be alright. You'll get through this. Okay?

Pam:

Okay...I guess.

Maurice:

And I'll help you as much as I can. Now I won't be able to carry your baby like I carried your books, but I'll do what I can to help.

Pam:

Amazing.

Maurice:

What?

Pam:

You.

Maurice:

Me?

Pam:

Yes you. Thanks brother. *(They hug while Lawanda enters)*

Lawanda:

So mama said you gonna have the baby.

Maurice:

Lawanda go sit down somewhere and leave her alone.

Lawanda:

What? I'm just trying to make conversation.

Maurice:

Well go conversate somewhere over there. She doesn't wanna be bothered by you.

Pam:

It's okay Maurice, she's fine.

Lawanda:

Yeah cuz you ain't her bodyguard and you ain't my mama...so leave us alone.

Maurice:

Lawanda, I don't have time for you right... *(Maurice exits)*

Lawanda:

(Attitude)

...same here! You know yall shouldn't been having sex.

Pam:

Excuse me?

Lawanda:

Sex. Y'all shouldn't been having it.

Pam:

Lawanda I already know that.

Lawanda:

So what's gonna happen?

Pam:

What do you mean?

Lawanda:

With you. What's gonna happen to you?

Pam:

You know Maurice was right...go sit down some where.

Lawanda:

What? I just wanna know.

Pam:

Lawanda if I can't have the abortion that means I'm going to have this child.

Lawanda:

And what's going to happen to you?

Pam:

What?

Lawanda:

I mean where are you guys going to live and how are you going to take care of it? Are you going to finish school and become a doctor like dad wants you to.

Pam:

(Aggravated)

I don't know Lawanda.

Lawanda:

Well I just wanted to know, which means you need to find out. *(Pam begins to leave.)*
Um Pam... I noticed that you didn't eat your dessert...can I have it?

Pam:

No.

Lawanda:

Why not?

Pam:

Cuz I...fine! Just take it and don't bother me for the rest of the night.

Lawanda:

Thanks sis. *(Lawanda attempts to exit.)*

Pam:

You know Lawanda you don't always have to be like that.

Lawanda:

Like what?

Pam:

Selfish.

Lawanda:

I ain't selfish.

Pam:

Yes you are. Even when we were little you always had to have everything be about you. Every chance you got...you told on me. Me and Maurice.

Lawanda:

No I didn't.

Pam:

Yes you did.

Lawanda:

When then?

Pam:

Like the time when everybody was sleep and Maurice and I wanted some raisins. Soon as we went down to the kitchen cabinet for the raisins you open your big mouth yelling..."MOM...DAD...THEY IN DEM RAISINS!"

Lawanda:

Well that's because mama had said we couldn't be eatin' after a certain time and yall were eatin' way after that certain time.

Pam:

But did you have to tell Lawanda?

Lawanda:

I just wanted to...

Pam:

...kiss up to mama.

Lawanda:

Pam don't say that.

Pam:

Well it's true Lawanda. That's what you do. Every chance you get you kissing butt. It hurts, but it's true. (*Marcella enters*) Hey Marcella.

Lawanda:

Marcella am I selfish?

Marcella:

Yes...you can be. Why?

Lawanda:

(Sucks her teeth)

Never mind...don't even worry about it. *(Lawanda exits)*

Marcella:

What's wrong with her now?

Pam:

You know how she is...selfish...running her mouth...and always in peoples business. She had the nerve to tell me "You know yall shouldn't been having sex."

Marcella:

Well she's right Pam...you and Eddie should not have been...

Lawanda:

(Offstage voice of Lawanda)

Pam! Phone! It's Eddie!

Pam:

(Quickly rises)

I gotta go.

Marcella:

Alright, but I'm not finish talking with you.

Pam:

I know.

Marcella:

Alright.

(Pam begins to exit)

Marcella:

And Pam...you'll be fine. *(Pam nods yes and exits)* My Lord. God I know my sister and Eddie were both wrong for doing what they did, *(Pam re-enters to listen)* but please don't punish them...please forgive them and have mercy. And even though she may not be feeling like there's greatness on the inside of her right now...just allow her to grow up into that greatness that you have called her to dwell in. And I believe God...I...I believe. In Jesus name I pray...amen.

Enters Narrator

Dr. Bell/Narrator:

Talk about prayer...my family always prayed for me and I could always count on Marcella's warmth. (*School bell rings.*) Are we at time already? They did say time flies... of course my story doesn't end here, but time says I must stop. So we'll reconvene on tomorrow to wrap up this session. I just want to say to the parent's thank you so much for supporting your children in all they do...it is so valuable to them. With you by their sides they won't even have the passion to quit, but they'll be filled with the desire to show you what a winner they are in all they do. God bless you and I'll see you on tomorrow.

Mrs. Bennett crosses to Dr. Bell.

Mrs. Bennett:

Let's give Dr. Bell a hand for her time and dedication to Emerson Alternative! Thank you so much Dr. Bell we appreciate your time given to us. May God bless you. As you can see the young ladies are ready to collect the cards that were previously handed out. I ask that each person of every row pass the cards to their right to the last person in their row and someone would be by to collect them. Well, this was an awesome experience...I have again been inspired...I'm not about to talk your heads off, because it is time for us to go home. But we do ask that all of you stop by for some refreshments before leaving, and we will see you back here on tomorrow.

END

CHAPTER SEVEN: CONCLUSION

Theatre for social change is a great avenue to introduce and promote the idea of self-empowerment, and *Winners Don't Quit* does just that...empower its viewers. WDQ take audience members on a journey, which features the life of a young woman who faced diverse trials and tribulations, but overcame them all by sticking to the fight. Through the retelling of Dr. Bell's life story this character will ooze an empowering hope to all viewers that there is a great reason for the tests that comes our way, and it isn't to break you, but to make you...to make you strong. The type of change this play brings is a more refined and enduring mindset for viewers to always encourage themselves to keep going no matter how big or small the obstacle, and when this is achieved my artistic voice has been heard. This winning message is already on a national level and so is the vision for the stage production.

The vision for *Winners Don't Quit* is to one day create a college tour to HBCU's on the east coast. The desire is for students; both male and female, to relate to this story/struggle in a way that will continue to encourage them throughout their college career. While using it as a personal motivator and reminder that despite the obstacle a winner never quits on her dream. This production will expose to students, despite their status and background, to hold to the experiences and lessons from Dr. Bell that anything is possible. Viewers will be challenged to always set high goals, to work hard, and to become the "author of their success", because they all are worth it, and can do it.

The first excerpt premiere of WDQ was indeed phenomenal. It was told how people were self-evaluating themselves throughout the June thirtieth event. A number of questions were openly submitted to Dr. Bell concerning how one could better a particular area of her life. This was awesome, because the majority of the time people will not openly admit they have a

problem, and when the problem isn't admitted or even stated it can't be corrected. A number of people were very honest concerning a quantity of issues they were dealing with and wanted answers, because they craved correction. So the mission was accomplished! We saw ourselves the way God sees us on that night...despite out filth, shortcomings and mistakes, we are still filled with greatness that HE has instilled within us. This certainly means we must never quit, while encouraging each other. My prayer is that the final product of *WDQ* continues to minister, motivate, empower, and encourage women and men all over the nation just like Dr. Bell's book, *Winner's Don't Quit...Today They Call Me Doctor!*

APPENDIX A: EVENT PLANNING PACKET

Event Planning Packet

~~~

**The Young Adult Fellowship of Antioch Missionary Baptist Church**

**Present**

**Motivational Speaker, Dr. Pamela McCauley-Bell  
On  
Winners Don't Quit...Today They Call Me Doctor!**



**June 30, 2007...BE THERE!**

May 15, 2007

To Pastor C. Jones, Committee Members, and Volunteers:



Thank you for taking the time to view and go over this event-planning packet that will expose what is to come on June 30, 2007 at 6pm within the sacred walls of Antioch! I am very excited to share the vision that was given to me concerning this event, for I know that it will be life changing. This event is destined to ignite the dreams of individuals as well as stir up the gift, because so many are standing idle on their greatness. And as we know, it is so important to move out of the state of complacency and into the state of action so that the plan of God will be fulfilled within our very lives for the uplifting of His kingdom.

So again, thank you for your prayers and commitment for helping to make this event turn reality.

God bless and much love!

Evelyn D. Tyler  
WDQ Event Chair  
xxx-xxx-xxxx  
xxxxx.xxxx@xxxx.com

## \*So Exactly What is the Vision?

The vision is to produce a live and true fellowship featuring exhibits of empowering young adults who are making their mark within life as Christ has called them. Without shame or fear these individuals are carrying out the events main theme of how a winner doesn't quit. The featured exhibits and guest speaker will act as a living proof that goals, amongst the varied trials and tribulations, are attainable through Christ, perseverance, and hard work.

Through an exhibition of young adults and a guest motivational speaker this event is set with a vision and desire to empower, encourage, and motivate individuals young and old to not give up on desired goals, but to press forward and to see themselves as the winner that they are.

“Be the author of your success!”

-Dr. Pamela McCauley-Bell

## \*How Are We Going To Meet and Fulfill the Vision?

We will meet and fulfill the vision by breaking it down into detail pieces so that those who are helping to birth the vision will understand her purpose while working all tasks to completion.

## \*What Are the Detail Pieces of the Vision?

Again the detail pieces are what make the main vision turn reality. These pieces are labeled as the following: Lobby Display, Sanctuary Worship & Praise, Event Program, Public Relations/PR, Outdoor/Mail-in Registration, Special Presentations, Decorations, Nursery, Event Dinner & Clean-up Crew, and a \$400 Fund Raiser. A description of each is on the next page.

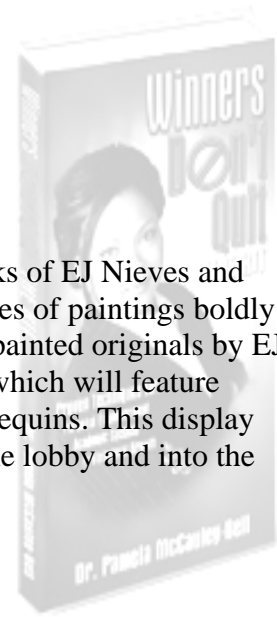


## **\*Lobby Display**

Chair, EJ Nieves

Co-chair, Cleeton Gumbs

The vision of the lobby display is to feature the creative Christian art works of EJ Nieves and Cleeton Gumbs. Roped off on the right side of the lobby will house a series of paintings boldly declaring the Word of God and His Son, Jesus Christ, which are all hand painted originals by EJ. Roped off on the left side of the lobby will house Imogee Clothing Line, which will feature models wearing the original Imogee designs as they stand posing as mannequins. This display will be up for viewing at the very beginning of the event as guests enter the lobby and into the sanctuary.



## **\*Sanctuary Praise & Worship**

Chair, Danny

Co-Chair, Larry Harris

As guests enter into the sanctuary they will enter into a rotation of praise and worship melodies. This will occur 30 minutes before the start of the event, and will feature original songs by young adults: Danny, Daniel, and Larry (that is if he's back from his ten city music tour... YOU GO LARRY!).

## **\*Event Program**

Chair, NEEDED

Co-chair, NEEDED

Contact Person, Natasha Whitted & Evelyn Tyler

The program for the event will indeed be a unique one. This program will not only feature the order of presentations, but will have special highlights acknowledging career goals and achievements amongst the young adults. Also the program will feature some application reminders noted & quoted from Dr. Bell.

## **\*Public Relations/PR**

Chair, Nehemiah Weaver

Co-chair, Jessica Roland

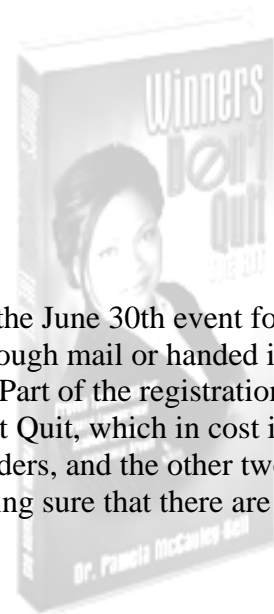
We are advertising to a select number of churches outside of Antioch so that others can come and experience an empowering event as well. It's an open event for all who want to attend, but they must register, and if they can...purchase a book for \$18.18.

### **\*Outdoor/Mail-in Registration**

Chair, NEEDED (Evelyn Tyler, Acting Chair)

Co-chair, NEEDED

Every Sunday after 8 and 11am services there will be a table set up for the June 30th event for people to register. Forms can be filled out on site and later returned through mail or handed in personally. I strongly encourage all to fill out and leave forms on site. Part of the registration will also involve a book order of an autographed copy of *Winners Don't Quit*, which in cost is \$18.18. One person each Sunday will take on the role of taking book orders, and the other two persons will handle registrations. The chair will be responsible for making sure that there are three people each Sunday (May 20<sup>th</sup>-June 24<sup>th</sup>) conducting registration.



### **\*Special Presentations**

Chair, Evelyn Tyler

Co-chair, NEEDED

After the main speaking event come special presentations. A portion of the special presentations will be of an excerpt from the stage adaptation of *Winners Don't Quit...Today They Call Me Doctor*, which will be presented to Dr. Bell in her honor. Other special presentations will be also made to those within respected positions. The remaining portion of the special presentation segment will be of a few raffles to audience members.

### **\*Decorations**

Chair, NEEDED

Co-chair, NEEDED

There will be a dinner after the event and it is needed for someone to set tables and table clothes. A system also need to be in place that will accommodate 300 plus people who will be either staying to eat or picking up a carry out plate to eat at home. Also, Dr Bell will bring a display that she sets up during speaking engagements. This display will be within the back left of the sanctuary; therefore, chairs will need to be moved and assembled accordingly.



## **\*Nursery**

Chair, Pauline Smith-Jathan

Co-chair, NEEDED

On the registration form there is a question that asks parents if they will be bringing their children. If yes is the case, which it will be, the nursery will need to be open and ready to operate. Mrs. Pauline noted that she will be out of town, but she will have someone to operate the nursery for us...so we'll need volunteers to help in the nursery.

## **\*Event Dinner & Clean up Crew**

Chairs, Robert Pierre-Louis, Sue Carter, & Gladys

Co-chair, Kimeche Carmichael

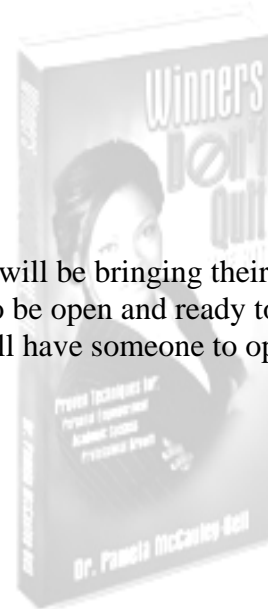
Soul Food! Yes sir! After the event we will have dinner together, but what is mostly important is that we have a crew to help clean up after the dinner has been prepared and then devoured. Working in the kitchen is no joke and help will be needed to help clean up during the preparation of the meal and after when everyone has had his or her fill.

## **\*\$400 Fund Raiser**

Chair, NEEDED

Co-chair, NEEDED

Money will be needed to purchase ingredients, meats, and supplies, which will be used to make the dinner possible. I'm not exactly sure how the money will be raised or if it'll be donated. Who knows how it will come about...it just will. I have spoken with both Nehemiah and Jessica concerning the how to and what do I do concerning this...so we shall see.





## Habakkuk 2:2-3

So there you have it...a description of the detail pieces that make up the vision. Personal instructions have and will be given to all chair members on how to carry out and fulfill all plans. As noted before I am not a micro-manager you are welcome to run free with the ideas that I give to you and to make it your own...just as long as it lines up with the original vision. I will check in with you guys through email, phone, and in passing on any updates, ideas, and concerns. If any of you need to add someone to your team feel free to do so. Let them know the vision and aim that we are going for and continue to keep them posted on any updates. So far there is a list of people that have volunteered their help as well as been recruited by me, and are now added to the contact list. Those that are on the list and haven't been assigned to an area of need and would like to work in this particular area please let me know and I'll place you accordingly. I greatly appreciate all of your help, because I can't do it by myself.

God bless!

## WDQ CONTACT LIST

| NAME                | CONTACT # | EMAIL | POSITION                         |
|---------------------|-----------|-------|----------------------------------|
| Pastor C. Jones     |           |       | PR Volunteer & Supporter         |
| Evelyn Tyler        |           |       | WDQ Event Chair & P. Artist      |
| EJ Nieves           |           |       | Lobby Display Chair              |
| Cleeton Gumbs       |           |       | Lobby Display Co-chair           |
| Danny Green         |           |       | Praise & Worship Chair           |
| Larry Harris        |           |       | Praise & Worship Co-chair        |
| Daniel Vernon       |           |       | Psalmist & Volunteer             |
| Nehemiah Weaver     |           |       | Public Relations Chair           |
| Jessica Roland      |           |       | Public Relations Co-chair        |
| Pauline S-Jathan    |           |       | Nursery-Chair                    |
| Robert Pierre-Loius |           |       | Dinner & Clean-up Crew Chair     |
| Sue Carter          |           |       | Dinner & Clean-up Crew Chair     |
| Gladys              |           |       | Dinner & Clean-up Crew Chair     |
| Kimeche C.          |           |       | Dinner & Clean-up Crew Co-Chair  |
| David Patterson     |           |       | Event Program Chair & SM         |
| Natasha Whitted     |           |       | Event Program Contact            |
| Arlisia Potter      |           |       | Event Program Writer & Volunteer |
| Janise              |           |       | Registration Chair               |
| Robin Montgomery    |           |       | Performing Artist & Volunteer    |
| Kency McCombe       |           |       | Performing Artist                |

|                                     |  |  |                          |
|-------------------------------------|--|--|--------------------------|
| <b>Kerri Alexander</b>              |  |  | <b>Performing Artist</b> |
| <b>Rose E. McCombe</b>              |  |  | <b>Performing Artist</b> |
| <b>Amanda Stephen</b>               |  |  | <b>Performing Artist</b> |
| <b>Felicia Wright</b>               |  |  | <b>Performing Artist</b> |
| <b>Anthony Davis</b>                |  |  | <b>Performing Artist</b> |
| <b>Tamara Naar</b>                  |  |  | <b>Performing Artist</b> |
| <b>Shani H. Lodge</b>               |  |  | <b>Performing Artist</b> |
| <b>Fabiola J. Gilles</b>            |  |  | <b>Performing Artist</b> |
| <b>Dennis Neal</b>                  |  |  | <b>Acting Coach</b>      |
| <b>Chris Davis</b>                  |  |  | <b>Volunteer</b>         |
| <b>Monica Dixon</b>                 |  |  | <b>Volunteer</b>         |
| <b>Harold Caudio</b>                |  |  | <b>Volunteer</b>         |
| <b>Natacha Bastien</b>              |  |  | <b>Volunteer</b>         |
| <b>Tracee Simpson</b>               |  |  | <b>Volunteer</b>         |
| <b>Denesha Jenkins</b>              |  |  | <b>Volunteer</b>         |
| <b>Jade Jones</b>                   |  |  | <b>Volunteer</b>         |
| <b>Minister &amp; Mrs.<br/>Mack</b> |  |  | <b>Volunteer</b>         |
| <b>Minister Thomas</b>              |  |  | <b>Volunteer</b>         |
| <b>Quianna Goodson</b>              |  |  | <b>Dancer</b>            |

# ATTENTION!!!

BE THE FIRST TO REGISTER! ENCLOSED ARE TWO REGISTRATION FORMS FOR YOU AND A FRIEND OR SPOUSE. YOU MAY SUBMIT THE FORM TO ME OR AT THE REGISTRATION TABLE THIS COMING SUNDAY, MAY 20, 2007. ALL BOOK ORDERS ARE WELCOME. THANK YOU!

-EVELYN TYLER



# WDQ REGISTRATION w/ Book

The Young Adult Fellowship of Antioch Missionary Baptist Church

Present

Motivational Speaker, Dr. Pamela McCauley-Bell

On

Winners Don't Quit...Today They Call Me Doctor!

June 30, 2007 @ 6pm, @ Antioch!



NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

PHONE: \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

STUDENT: (check one) College \_\_\_\_\_ High \_\_\_\_\_ Middle \_\_\_\_\_ Non-student \_\_\_\_\_

PARENT: (check one) Married \_\_\_\_\_ Single \_\_\_\_\_

Will you bring any children? \_\_\_\_\_ If yes, what are the ages? \_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_.

Winners Don't Quit Book: Quantity: \_\_\_\_\_

Amount: \$18.18 x quantity (tax included)

Total Due: \_\_\_\_\_

Form of Payment: Cash or Money Order (Payable to Antioch Missionary Baptist Church).

## *Attendant's Copy*

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

PHONE: \_\_\_\_\_

STUDENT: (check one) College \_\_\_\_\_ High \_\_\_\_\_ Middle \_\_\_\_\_ Non-student \_\_\_\_\_

PARENT: (check one) Married \_\_\_\_\_ Single \_\_\_\_\_

Will you be bringing any children? \_\_\_\_\_ If yes, what are the ages? \_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_.

Thank you for your book order!

Mail To: Attn: Winner's Don't Quit, Antioch Missionary Baptist Church, 311 N. Division St.,  
Oviedo, FL 32765

June 30, 2007 @ 6:00 pm

## **APPENDIX B: FROM THE PAGE TO THE STAGE**

**From The Page to the Stage:**

**Dissecting**  
***The Feast On the Mountain & the Feast Under the***  
***Water***

Evelyn Tyler  
2/12/07



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evil. You must always do good to your friends, and never do evil. You must always do good to your friends even if they do you bad.

—*St. Vincent*

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## 44

### THE FEAST ON THE MOUNTAIN AND THE FEAST UNDER THE WATER



It was Anansi's birthday, and he invited all the animals to come to his feast and eat with him, and Tortoise came along too. But Anansi didn't want him, and before they went to eat, Anansi suddenly said that all the animals who were going to eat must wash their hands before they came to the table. Now Tortoise went to wash his hands, but as he walked back, his hands got dirty again. He tried over and over, but he could not walk any other way. So he never got to eat at Anansi's table.

Tortoise went away. He said, "Anansi tricked me, but I am going to get even with him."

Tortoise decided he would also have a big feast, and he sent a call to all the animals to come and eat with him. He knew that Anansi would come, of course. When they arrived he said his feast would be under the water; he knew Anansi was too light to swim down to where they were eating. But Anansi borrowed a pair of breeches and a coat, and he dressed himself in that. He picked up stones and put them in his pockets so that he might swim below. Now, when he was heavy enough, he went down into the water. The table was set and all were beginning to eat. Tortoise looked and saw that Anansi had put stones in his pockets. Immediately Tortoise said to them all, "Before you come to the table, you must all take off your coats."

Anansi was troubled when he heard this. He thought about it and said

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to himself, "If I take off my coat, then I am going to float up to the top again, because the stones that are in my pockets hold me." So he kept his coat on. But when Anansi came to the table, Tortoise at once said, "When you gave a feast, you did what you liked. When I give mine, I can do what I like too. You have to take off your coat."

So Anansi took his coat off. No sooner did he do so than he rose to the surface of the water. So he did not get any food that day.

Greed caused this to happen to him. So when you eat, you must eat with others.

—*Surinam*

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## 45

### HIDE ANGER UNTIL TOMORROW

There was a man who had to go off to town to work. In town he met this old man who was wise in all things, and who said to him, "I am going to tell you the two things you need to know: When you get angry, hide it until tomorrow; and all that your eyes see, you must not believe."

Now, this man had a wife at home, but they had no child. He had to remain away from home for a long time, but finally he was able to return. But when he came home, he found a man in bed with his wife and they were both asleep. He drew his revolver to shoot the man, but suddenly he remembered what the old man had said to him: "Hide your anger until tomorrow." So he didn't shoot him.

When the morning came and they were all awake, his wife told him of their good luck; for when he left she was pregnant, and this was their boy who was sleeping with his mother. The child had grown so big! If he had shot him, he would have killed his own child.

That is why it is well to listen to a person who says, "Hide your anger till tomorrow, and all that you see you must not believe."

—*Surinam*

# People's Theatre Total Theatre Program

## *Objective, Goals, & Curriculum Outline*

**Facilitator:** Evelyn Tyler

**Area of Study:** Script Writing

### **Overall Objective**

The overall objective: To adapt a story into a script. Folktales, a genre all by itself, have been chosen as the focus to take great stories and transform them into plays. This process will involve each student: learning the history of African folktales, reading and understanding recorded folktales, and orally conveying (onstage and off) the overall message by redeveloping the tales into plays, which will be written by them.

### **Goals**

Folktales carry valuable lessons about life that everyone can learn from. The goal with this truth is to have each student capture these lessons within their scripts and personal character. The students will also be encourage to share the message of the tales with others within their communities, which is a way to effect change, encourage reading, and establish a new family tradition.

### **Curriculum**

*(A detail copy of daily work will be collected and later submitted.)*

Throughout the beginning five weeks students will learn, work, and demonstrate in the following areas:

| <u>Topic</u>                                          | <u>Week/Day</u> |
|-------------------------------------------------------|-----------------|
| Defining Script Writing & Folktale                    | 1/1             |
| Oral Storytelling Traditions of Africa                | 1/2             |
| Animals, A Representation of Humans                   | 1/2             |
| Reading, Applying & Drawing Lessons<br>From the Tales | 1/2             |
| The Craft of Playwriting                              | 2/1&2           |
| Choosing Folktales to Adapt Into Plays                | 2/2             |
| Adapting the Tales Into Plays                         | 3, 4, 5 (1/2)   |

## **Writing A Script From A Story**

How do I turn a story into a script? First, understand that there is a process, which is as follow:

- Read the story.
- Become aware of the entire story from front to back, in and out.
- Understand how the story begins and ends.
- Gather every piece of information from the story and categorize it: characters, event, props, problem, etc.
- Collaborate with your classmates to come up with ideas while using every inch of the imagination.
- Work on the story by sections.
- Relax and have fun while writing. And do not judge your writing, because everything that you create is greatly worth consideration.

### **Retelling the Story Through A Script/Dialogue**

How do I retell a story through a written script while making sure that it is continually revealing information like the original story? Well, *there are a number of ways to retell a story through a script/stage dialogue.*

- The narrator can tell the story while having the characters act it out.
- The characters can tell the story amongst themselves.
- The narrator along with the characters can tell the story.
- The main characters along with the supporting characters can tell the story.
- The narrator, main characters, and supporting characters can tell the story.
- The set, costumes, props, and make-up all help in telling a story. They too are key elements.

## **Types of Characters<sup>1</sup>**

**P-Protagonist:** The main character in the play, whose story it is. The one who get things moving.

**A-Antagonist:** The character in a play who stands in the way of the main character's getting what he or she wants, thereby creating the main conflict in the play.

**SeC-Secondary Character:** The character in a play with whom the main character is principally involved about whom the main character cares most. The main character's relationship with the secondary character is usually complicated by the antagonist.

**SuC-Supporting Character:** Characters who fill out the play, adding to situations in which the primary and secondary characters and the antagonist are playing the main action.

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<sup>1</sup> Types of Characters were taken from Carol Korty's *Writing Your Own Plays*.

## Beginning, Middle, & End

What happened within the beginning, middle, and end of the feast story?

### Beginning:

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### Middle:

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### End:

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## *Categories*

Event 1: \_\_\_\_\_

Place: \_\_\_\_\_

Character(s): \_\_\_\_\_

Problem: \_\_\_\_\_

Solution/End Result: \_\_\_\_\_

Props: \_\_\_\_\_

Event 2: \_\_\_\_\_

Place: \_\_\_\_\_

Character(s): \_\_\_\_\_

Problem: \_\_\_\_\_

Solution/End Result: \_\_\_\_\_

Props: \_\_\_\_\_

*Character Description*

From  
**The Feast...**

**Event 1:** \_\_\_\_\_

*Character 1:*

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*Character 2:*

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*Character 3:*

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*Character 4:*

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---

*Character 5:*

---

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*Character 6:*

---

---

*Character 7:*

---

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*Character Description*

From  
**The Feast...**

**Event 2:** \_\_\_\_\_

*Character 1:*

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*Character 2:*

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*Character 3:*

---

---

*Character 4:*

---

---

*Character 5:*

---

---

*Character 6:*

---

---

*Character 7:*

---

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**The Party on the Mountain & The Feast Underwater  
Script**

**Written  
by:**  
Asia Chatman, Zanthé Solomon,  
&  
Evelyn Tyler

©  
2007

## **People's Theatre Total Theatre Program**

### **Characters**

In Order of Appearance

#### **Narrator**

**Tootsie the Tortoise**

**Anansi the Spider**

**Jag the Jaguar**

**Pearl the Rabbit**

**Crystal the Cat**

**Pooh the Bear**

**Time:** Present Day

**Setting:** The Park, Pearl's Party Store, Lincoln Mountain, & Rock Bottom Lake



*(Tortoise and Anansi are stretching upstage of Narrator.)*

**Narrator:**

African folktales are traditional stories that have moral messages for the reader, which adds value to his/her life. And within everyday life there is a great cycle with many lessons revolving within it. Will you learn today's lesson when it comes your way or will you just let it pass you by? Take my advice...don't become like Anansi who allowed his lessons to pass him by. It was during one beautiful sunny filled afternoon that held a contest within the park of Winter Park, which featured Anansi and Tortoise who were preparing to race.

### **Scene 1: The Race**

**Tortoise:**

It's a nice day for the race Anansi. I hope next week around this time it'll be this nice for my party. Would you like to come?

**Anansi:**

Look Tortoise I don't have time to chit chat...good luck on the race.

**Tortoise:**

Why the attitude?

**Anansi:**

No attitude. I just said good luck.

**Tortoise:**

Well...thank you. May the best win.

**Anansi:**

Oh don't worry, I will.

*(Before the Narrator announces GO Anansi illegally begins the race.)*

**Narrator:**

On your mark...get set...GO!!!!

**Tortoise:**

Hey wait a minute! That's not fair! Anansi cheated!

*(Anansi makes her/his way to the finish line.)*

**Anansi:**

Yes! I won I won I won!

**Tortoise:**

No you didn't! You cheated Anansi. Before she said **GO** you had already started the race.

**Narrator:**

Is this true Anansi?

**Anansi:**

No! That's not true. I started after you said **GO**.

**Narrator:**

Well, let's take a look at the tape. May I have the tape please!

*(Someone quickly appears with a VHS and they literally look at it...there is a note that's taped on the outside of the tape saying "Anansi CHEATED!")*

**Tortoise:**

*(Reading the tape)*

Uh huh! See! "Anansi CHEATED!" I told you!

**Narrator:**

I'm sorry Anansi, but you are disqualified.

**Anansi:**

What?! But, I...

**Narrator:**

No buts...you are disqualified. Ladies and gentlemen I would like to present to you our winner, Tootsie the Tortoise!

**Anansi:**

How is she the winner? She didn't even take two steps...with her slow self.

**Narrator:**

Uh huh...no name-calling. Besides she was honest; therefore, she is the winner, and recipient of today's prize. *(Hands out an envelope)* Here you go Tootsie.

*(While Tootsie the Tortoise steps up to claim her prize Anansi storms off in disgust.)*

**Tortoise:**

Thank you. I guess the best did win. You know I didn't mean to cause such a fuss, but he did cheat. I hope he's not upset with me.

**Narrator:**

It'll be okay. I do believe that he'll get over it. I just hope that he learned his lesson.

**Tortoise:**

Yeah I guess.

**Narrator:**

So, who are you going to take with you to Disney?

**Tortoise:**

Well, I told myself that if I won I would take the person that I'd race against, which was Anansi.

**Narrator:**

Oh how nice.

**Tortoise:**

Yeah. Well...I got to go find him...see ya later.

*(As Tortoise exits stage left, Anansi enters stage right with Jag.)*

**Narrator:**

Well goodbye Tootsie, and congratulations! *(Narrator exits)*

## **Scene 2: The Party Planner**

**Anansi:**

How could she! I don't care what that tape said, I did not cheat. She just wanted those Disney tickets.

**Jag:**

There just Disney tickets. Who hasn't been to Disney? Everyone that I know has gone...*(Looks at Anansi who hasn't been to Disney)* oh I'm sorry. You've never been to Disney?

**Anansi:**

No, I haven't. That's why I wanted to win.

**Jag:**

Well Anansi you shouldn't have cheated.

**Anansi:**

What?! I didn't cheat. Who told you that?

**Jag:**

Well everybody is talking about how you started before the announcer said **GO**.

**Anansi:**

Wait a minute. How would you know the specifics? The race just ended ten minutes ago.

**Jag:**

Yeah that's true, but news travels fast.

**Anansi:**

Uuuugh! She has ruined my name!

**Jag:**

Yeah, and if you know what I know...you better clear your name before voting season.

**Anansi:**

You're right. How can I do that? What can I do?

**Jag:**

Do what everybody does when they want to look good...throw a party.

**Anansi:**

That'll work! My birthday is in a few days. So it's decided. I'll throw a big feast for my birthday and invite everybody...especially those that have been talking about me.

**Jag:**

Which is everybody.

**Anansi:**

Would you stop that! I already know all that. That's why I said I'd invite everybody.

**Jag:**

Sounds awesome Anansi. It would be great to have everybody get together, and you can expose the truth, which is really a lie...but it'll be great. Now, where will it be?

**Anansi:**

Well, I want it to be really big. (*Thinks to himself*) Ah hah! I got it. Why not Lincoln Mountain...it has the most beautiful view and lots of space.

**Jag:**

Sounds like a plan. Is there anything that I can do to help?

**Anansi:**

Yes. You can let everyone know about it, because I need everyone to be there.

**Jag:**

Everyone?

**Anansi:**

Yes...everyone.

**Jag:**

Is there anything else you need me to do?

**Anansi:**

Well you can go by Pearls Party Store to check some stuff out for the party. I heard she's having a sell. As a matter of fact I'll meet you there. I just need to go to KINKEE'S first to print some flyers.

**Jag:**

Okay, I'm on it! (*Jag begins to leave.*)

**Anansi:**

And remember don't forget to tell everyone about the party. (*They leave in opposite directions.*)

**Jag:**

Okay! (*Anansi turns back around.*)

**Anansi:**

Oh wait! Nooo, not everyone! Don't invite Tootsie the...(*Tootsie enters*)...Tortoise.

### **Scene 3: "It Aired Live"**

**Tortoise:**

Hey Anansi I was looking for you.

**Anansi:**

For what? To apologize for ruining my name? The whole town is talking about me Tootsie!

**Tortoise:**

It was a live race Anansi. It aired **live**. So everybody saw...look I wasn't looking for you to rub the race in your face. I just wanted to...

**Anansi:**

Look as you know I ran hard today...so I'm tired and need my rest. You on the other hand can roam the streets all day if you want to, because you did nothing at the race. So if you will...excuse me. I need my rest. (*Anansi exits*)

**Tortoise:**

(*Calls out to him*)

But Anansi...I wanted to ask if you wanted to go to Disney with me. (*Tortoise cell phone rings*)  
UUUGH! What's wrong with him? Hello. Oh hey Ma. Yeah...I'm okay. Oh you saw the race. Yeah, well I wish it never happened. I'll tell you all about the stuff you didn't see when I get home. Oh yeah the party store! I forgot...which one? Pearl's Party Store. Okay, I'll pick the stuff up. Bye.

*(Pearl appears within Pearl's Party Store arranging the store items.)*

**Narrator:**

While Tortoise was on her way to Pearl's Party Store so was Anansi who told a lie about being tired and needed to go home for some rest. Let's see who arrives first.

**Scene 4: At Pearl's**

**Pearl:**

*(Looking down and handling items)*

Hello. Welcome to Pearl's Party Store. *(Begins to look up)* If you need any assistance... Oh hey Anansi. How are you?

**Anansi:**

Just fine Pearl, and you.

**Pearl:**

Oh me, I've been doing good. So what can I help you with?

**Anansi:**

Well, I'm preparing to throw a huge party for my birthday and...

**Pearl:**

Yeah, your birthday is this month.

**Anansi:**

Yep, I'm getting up there. Hey...did Jag get here yet?

**Pearl:**

No I haven't seen him today. As a matter of fact it's been months since I last seen Jag.

**Anansi:**

Since he's not here I need you to help me with some things. Would you mind?

**Pearl:**

As long as I'm invited to this party I'll do anything.

**Anansi:**

Of course you're invited. As a matter of fact bring anyone that you want with you. *(Notices Jag)* Finally he gets here. I wonder where he's been? *(Enters Jag)* Hey Jag I have something to tell you, but first how is it that I managed to beat you here?

**Jag:**

I was spreading the news about the party like you told me to.

**Anansi:**

Oh.

**Jag:**

Now, what is it that you want to tell me?

**Anansi:**

Let's walk and talk. (*They began to walk off and Anansi turns back to Pearl*) Thanks for offering to help me.

**Pearl:**

No problem. I'm still invited right?

**Anansi:**

Of course. This Saturday around this time. (*Jag and Anansi exits*)

**Pearl:**

Great! I'll be there.

**(Enters Tortoise.)**

**Pearl:**

Heeeey Tortoise! What's been bananas with you?

**Tortoise:**

Nothing much...just planning my big birthday feast.

**Pearl:**

Really? Well you came to the right place. Seems like everybody wants to party these days. Now what can I help you with?

**Tortoise:**

Well I'm looking for my theme colors. My mom said that you would have them.

**Pearl:**

Well...we have all the colors you can think of. Let me take you down aisle six.

**Tortoise:**

Okay, show me the way. (*Both are walking*)

**Pearl:**

By the way awesome race on today.

**Tortoise:**

Don't remind me.

*Jag and Anansi appears down the same aisle.*

**Pearl:**

Over on this wall we have red, blue, and yellow. This wall green, purple, and...

**Tortoise:**

...wait a minute is that Anansi and Jag?

*(Anansi looks up at Tortoise.)*

**Anansi:**

Tortoise!

**Tortoise:**

Anansi! A cheater and a liar! I thought you were tired Anansi. What are you doing in the party store?

**Anansi:**

*(Surprised)* Oh! Hello Tortoise. You were the last person that I expected to see.

**Tortoise:**

Yeah I bet. What are you doing here with all this party stuff in your hands?

**Anansi:**

Are you talking about this stuff? Oh, I'm picking it up for a friend.

**Tortoise:**

Um huh...I see, well whose party is it for?

**Anansi:**

Ahhhh its *(Stutters)* Pooh's! It's Pooh's party.

**Tortoise:**

How nice. Am I invited?

**Anansi:**

*(Nods yes)*

**Tortoise:**

When is it?

**Anansi:**

In the next four weeks around this time.

**Tortoise:**

Well, I guess I'll see you there. *(Returns to shopping)*



**Anansi:**

Uh huh. (*Walks towards the front*) Pearl I'm ready to check out.

**Pearl:**

(*Pearl follows*)

Did I just hear you say Pooh was having a party too?

**Anansi:**

(*Whispers*) Yeah, but it's private.

**Pearl:**

Well that's okay. I won't be able to make it anyway. I'll be out of town in the next four weeks. You know...this is the third party that I heard about on today. (*Pearl hands them their merchandise.*)

**Anansi:**

Oh really...who's having the other party?

**Pearl:**

Oh it's...

(*Tortoise appears*)

**Tortoise:**

...Tootsie is now ready to check out. Thanks so much for your help Pearl.

**Pearl:**

No problem Tootsie.

(*Anansi and Jag began their exit*)

**Tortoise:**

You said in the next four weeks right Anansi.

**Anansi:**

Yeah Tootsie...in the next four weeks.

**Jag:**

It's not good that you're lying to her.

**Anansi:**

Now don't get all soft on me. I don't like her; therefore, I don't want her at my party. And besides, how would it look with Miss Tootsie showing up while I'm trying to clear my name?

**Jag:**

But what if she finds out?

**Anansi:**

She won't...now let's go. (*Anansi & Jag exit*)

**Pearl:**

So when is your party?

**Tortoise:**

Next Friday.

**Pearl:**

Oh okay. So you'll be able to make it to Anansi's party on Saturday.

**Tortoise:**

What Saturday?

**Pearl:**

This Saturday. He invited everyone.

**Tortoise:**

Are you sure? Anansi would have told me about it.

**Pearl:**

Well he told you about Pooh's party, but...

**Tortoise:**

...maybe you got it mixed up with Pooh's party Pearl.

**Pearl:**

Well maybe...just check it out. Stop by Anansi this Saturday around seven.

**Tortoise:**

Alright Pearl, if not Saturday I'll see you next Friday. (*Tortoise exits*)

**Narrator:**

I will say that a twisted lie can really stir up problems. Let's see how hard it'll be for Anansi to get out of this one or if he will create a new lie.

### **Scene 5: Anansi's Party**

**Anansi:**

Okay Jag in a little bit everybody will be here...so hurry up.

**Jag:**

Where do you want me to put these balloons?

**Anansi:**

Anywhere...just hurry up?

**Jag:**

Anansi I don't mean to be out of place, but you can be a little rude at times.

**Anansi:**

And you can be a little slow. Now hurry up! (*Jag sets the balloons*) Now where did I put that radio? Ah...here it is. (*Plays music*)

(*People began arriving to the party while wishing Anansi a Happy Birthday. They began dancing.*)

**Crystal the Cat:**

Happy Birthday Anansi!

**Anansi:**

(*Shocked*)  
Crystal you made it!

**Crystal:**

Yeah, I didn't think that I would, but I'm here.

**Pearl:**

Wow Anansi this place really looks nice.

**Anansi:**

Thank you! Yeah I just got finish putting the balloons in place. Well listen, it's good to see you Pearl, and I hope you enjoy yourself. Attention! Attention! I want to thank everyone for coming to celebrate this day with me. How about we start eating? But first I just want to clear something up... a few days ago there was a...(Tortoise appears) Tortoise?! What are you doing here?!

**Tortoise:**

I thought you said a few days ago that Pooh's party was in four weeks?

**Anansi:**

I did.

**Tortoise:**

So what is this?

**Anansi:**

This...ummm...this was a last minute thing, and it's an invite only party. (*Escorts Tortoise by the arm to the door*)

**Tortoise:**

For who?

**Anansi:**

*(Aggravated)*  
For Poooooh!

**Pooh:**

What Anansi? *(He crosses to Anansi)* Oooh...hello Tortoise. Come on in and enjoy Anansi's birthday.

**Tortoise:**

Anansi birthday? But he told me that it was your party.

**Pooh:**

Why would he tell you that? My birthday is next year in June.

**Tortoise:**

Okay, I'm confused.

**Anansi:**

*(Rushes away)*  
And I'm hungry...let's EAT! BUT WASH YOUR HANDS BEFORE COMING TO THE TABLE!

**Narrator:**

So everyone lined up to wash their hands, and went to the table. Except for Tortoise who had trouble keeping his hands clean.

**Anansi:**

Tortoise your hands are still really dirty. Can you go and wash them again please?

**Tortoise:**

Sure Anansi.  
*(Realizes that she can't keep her hands clean)*

**Tortoise:**

Um Anansi I can't make it to the table without messing my hands up.

**Anansi:**

Well I guess you can't come to the table.

**Tortoise:**

But I...

**Anansi:**

...no BUTS Tootsie! Because you can't keep your hands clean you can't sit at this table, uh unn...no mam'... and since you can't sit at the table you need to leave my party.

**Tortoise:**

What?! Why are you being so mean to me?

**Anansi:**

Please leave Tootsie...it's not that hard...as you can see we are ready to eat and the food is getting very cold...so leave. (*Tootsie begins to exit, and Anansi crosses to table*) Now...may I have someone to bless the food? (*They all bow their heads as Jag mouths a prayer*)

**Tortoise:**

Anansi has been tricking me as well as lying to me, and I'm sick of it! I'm gonna get him back. (*Exits*)

**Narrator:**

(*Anansi and guests all eat, dance, and exit*)

So Anansi and guests ate all that they could, danced until they were sore, and finally went home. Anansi believed that he had cleared his name with the community and was very proud of himself...not even thinking twice about the hurt he had caused Tootsie. (*Tortoise appears with a pen and pad*) In the mean time Tootsie the Tortoise came up with a plan of her own to settle things with Anansi.

## **Scene 6: Tortoise's Feast**

**Tortoise:**

Since my birthday is in a few days I too will invite everyone. I won't be mean...Anansi can come to. The difference...my feast will be under water at Rock Bottom Lake...let's just see how skinny Anansi makes it to the bottom. (*Smiles and snickers*) Now...what's the first thing on my list of to do? KINKEE's. That's right I will need flyers to help spread the news. (*Tortoise exits*)

**Narrator:**

A few hours pass and flyers in every color were everywhere. In no time the whole town knew about Tortoise's party.

(*Anansi enters reading flyer*)

**Anansi:**

Tortoise is having a party? This should be fun. Under WATER?! OOOOOH WEE! (*Realizes he's too small*) Wait a minute. What is this? How can I make it under water? I know how to float, but not sink...I'm too small. But I'm sure I can think of something before then. (*Anansi exits*)

**Narrator:**

The feast under water came in no time. And like Tortoise expected everyone showed up.

*(Enters Anansi)*

**Tortoise:**

Hello Anansi. I was looking forward to seeing your face on today.

**Anansi:**

Really? How nice. Well Tootsie, I aah...I'm sorry about the other week. I really didn't mean to hurt you.

**Tortoise:**

Don't worry...you didn't.

**Anansi:**

I didn't?

**Tortoise:**

No...you didn't, but if you would excuse me I have a party to attend. *(Walks away)* Attention! Attention! I will like to thank everyone for coming to my big feast...I hope all of you have a great time on today.

**Jag:**

Hey Anansi. I didn't see when you got here. *(Notices Anansi's coat)* Um, can I ask you a question?

**Anansi:**

Sure.

**Jag:**

Why do you still have on your coat?

**Anansi:**

I plea the fifth. *(Quickly rushes away)*

**Tortoise:**

Listen up! Those that still have on their coats please remove them. We are about to continue on with the festivities and all coats need to be off.

**Anansi:**

*(Panics to himself)*

What?! If I take off my coat I won't be able to stay. I got to avoid Tootsie. *(Begins to move further away)*

**Tortoise:**

Um Anansi...we're waiting.

**Anansi:**

*(Turns)*

Coming! *(Turns back around & talks to himself)* Okay if I take my coat off I'll immediately float to the top.

**Tortoise:**

*(Approaches)*

What's wrong Anansi?

**Anansi:**

Nothing.

**Tortoise:**

Are you lying again?

**Anansi:**

What?

**Tortoise:**

Why won't you take off your coat?

**Anansi:**

I just don't want to, and I don't lie.

**Tortoise:**

Uh huh. Look Anansi, if you want to stay at my feast you must take off your coat.

**Anansi:**

But if I take my coat off I'll float to the top.

**Tortoise:**

What?

**Anansi:**

My coat has rocks within the pockets to weigh me down. And if I remove my coat I'll float to the top.

**Tortoise:**

Well that's really not my problem. Is it? Now you did what you wanted at your party so I'm doing what I want at my feast. And to think Anansi I never did anything bad to you to deserve how you treated me.

**Anansi:**

What? I thought you forgave me.

**Tortoise:**

I did. Now...I just want to teach you a lesson as well as show you that whatever goes around within life comes right back at cha'...now take off your coat or remove the rocks. Either way...you're out of here. (*Anansi takes his coat off and floats to the top. Tortoise waves goodbye*) Okay everybody let's eat! We had one guest to leave early...something about being too weighed down or something...so he had to leave. Now, can I have someone to bless the food? (*They all bow their heads and Jag mouths a prayer*)

(*Enters Narrator*)

**Narrator:**

I guess Anansi now realizes that it doesn't feel so good when the shoe is on the other foot. (*Anansi returns to the party*) It is said that Anansi returned to the party in tears while making his announcement to everyone that he did cheat at last weeks race, and that he was extremely wrong and sorry for mistreating Tortoise. So Anansi not only in humility cleared his named, but he cleared his conscious by being honest about lying. Tootsie the Tortoise accepted his apology and was very happy that he returned to her feast. She later invited Anansi to Disney World, which he gladly accepted. And from that time on the two were the best of friends.

**End**



The above inserts are very significant to theatre for social change. The script alone teaches how important it is to be honest as it shows the outcome of one who tells a lie to only tell more to cover up the beginning lie. This entire project was dedicated to making a productive impact on the youth involved within the program so that they can not just have a good time for a few months, but, so that they will know how to make and have a good life for many years to come.

The students not only did great work on the script, but they also did a fantastic job with making their character masks. I taught them how to turn a neutral mask, which is very humanistic, into an animalistic mask. We used newspaper strips, tape, tissue, paper plates, and a glue gun to help build the masks into their desired look. I'd work with the art of mask making before, but with a different medium. In high school I made a beautiful mask out of modeling clay, which was used as a mold to make duplicate masks out of paper mache.

The students were very skeptical at first. They just couldn't see how they were going to turn a neutral mask into the likes of an animal. But, as long as their teacher saw the vision they were in good hands...eventually they too ended up grasping the vision.

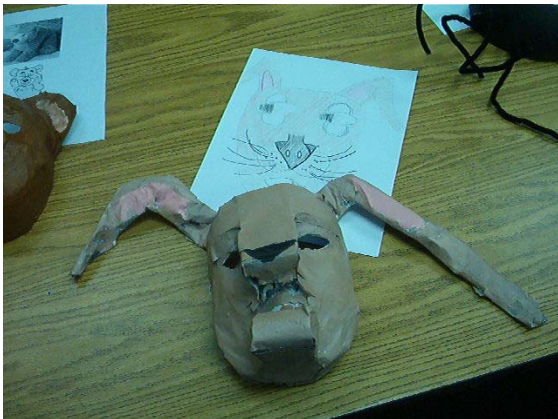
I, along with the students, researched the animals that were scripted, and we all brought in our pictures. The students then had to study the animal, and then draw the face of the animal on a piece of paper before they began the mask making process. It was very important for them to study the features closely so that they would create a similar look within their masks. I believe that they did an awesome job! Here are some pictures below of the final product.

*Presenting...*

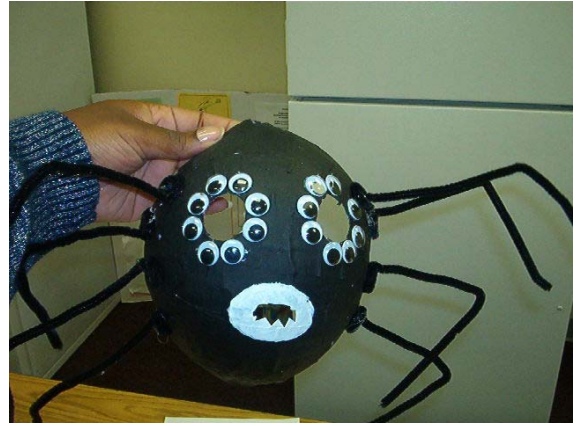
*...Pooh the Bear...*



*...Pearl the Rabbit...*



*...Anansi the Spider...*

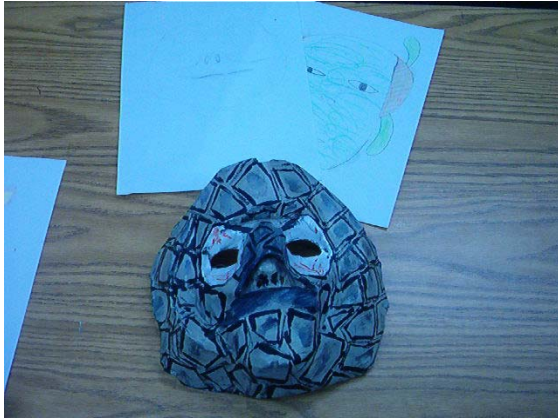


*...Crystal the Cat...*

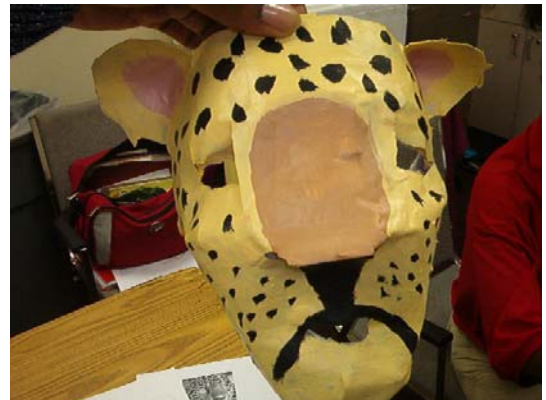
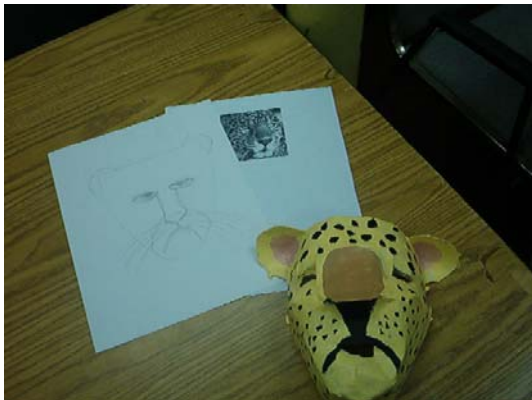




*...Tootsie the Tortoise...*



*...Jag the Jaguar...*



Throughout the few months of this program I wrote down evaluations and handed in two of them, which were asked of me. The two below are copies of my outlook of the program as a facilitator.

**April 04, 2007**

**Total Theatre Program**

**Facilitator:** Evelyn Tyler

**Area:** Script Writing

**FACILITATOR FEEDBACK:**

As a facilitator I view the **Total Theatre Program** as one that will cultivate well with time. This program is within its first year of life as it works towards its goal of theatre education and application among the youth within the community. Being able to give a student the opportunity to view theatre from its multi-angles is a genius idea, and this program offers that. The overall objectives and goals this program has set challenge students, and facilitators as it rests on a demanding foundation, which states hard work pays off.

I have found the students hard work greatly paid off when they're in my presence, but away with homework assignments this truth is lost with some. So I question myself as their teacher. What am I not doing that makes them loose interest when they leave? And how can I make it better for them? Or, could it be they never lost interest, because they never were interested, and felt force to do the work when I was in their presence? Sad, but could be true. And one may say a little embarrassing, but it's not. I will say, yes, the work is very demanding and the stated goals that were given at the beginning of the program were heard, but as I feel, not listened to.

It wasn't until the end of the writing sessions when students became a little more serious about completing their writings. They began to listen to the truth of "These writings will be staged by you with your name attached as the playwright." I also had one student who was ahead, and I do judge that the rest took it as a challenge to do better, and catch up.

**RECOMMENDATIONS:**

I believe this program is designed for a higher age level as stated within its objectives, and I recommend that the next entering class of students be of the high school level. I would even suggest the program being open and available to adults who have an interest in theatre, but never really had the chance or time, and now do.

**CHALLENGES:**

The **Total Theatre Program** is self-explanatory/defined, which means it has so much to offer to students, but in so little of time. There are a lot of awesome materials prepared by the facilitators for the participants where time seems to run out quickly. This is a challenge as well as the scheduled number of meeting days throughout the week.

From the facilitator angle there was a challenge I had with cell phones. I spoke to the students about their phones and they were very polite when telling me it's something that's allowed within classes at their schools. I encouraged them to silence their phones while within the program and in class at school, but I immediately saw this was a habit far from being broken.

**July 12, 2007**

**Comments From:**

Evelyn Tyler

**TTP Facilitator**

I believe this year's overall purpose and objectives of the **Total Theatre Program** were highly met. This is a new program that has surpassed its expectations, while establishing a new found goal...attract more kids! *TTP* is not only a learning outlet for students who have an interest in theatre, but it is a refining tool to those students who desire a future career in theatre.

Over the past few months of the spring term, *TTP* was a rewarding and fulfilling program as it exposed diverse areas of theatre. Students who were engaged in the program received knowledge as well as hands on experience within the following areas: scripting writing, acting lessons, costume design, mask making, & stage management. The students, like me agreed that more kids are needed for the program as they wait next season for the program's return.

The youth with this program are excellent students who are looking for growth and new levels of achievement. Even if tasks appeared tricky or challenging to them, with much encouragement and sternness the students were always proud of their final product. My prayer is that they understand the never changing concept, which they have been using throughout the term; to produce quality, the hard work applied within the classroom is the same hard work needed outside of the classroom.

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